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Packaged to please.
Page 17

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Bond bemoans Beijing bootlegs. Page 8

From a small Chinese village to the galleries of Milan. Page 12

Auspicious essentials for a traditional New Year. Page 18

Watchdog cracks down on garbage importers

Page 2



Big signing for Nighthawks

Sun Mingming, 23, left, the new center for the Maryland Nighthawks basketball team, meets the media at a news conference in Chevy Chase, Maryland, yesterday. Sun, who stands over 2.36 meters tall and hails from Bayan, Heilongjiang, will be the tallest player in US professional basketball history. At right is teammate Randy Gill, dwarfed despite being 1.82 meters tall himself.

IC Photo

New cinema serves capital's blind people

Page 3

Resting up for the eternal yawn

Page 4

Beijing Mobile users to get free incoming calls

Page 6

Yankees in search for Baseball's Yao

Page 8

Pavillion

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China's environmental health gets help from WHO

By Qiu Jiaoning

China contains 16 of the world's 20 most polluted cities and, in 2005, only 31 percent of cities met national air quality standards. Dr Henk Bekedam, World Health Organization (WHO) representative in China made these statements on Wednesday during an environmental health management workshop jointly held by the WHO, China's Ministry of Health (MOH) and the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

"In China, it is no exaggeration to say that environmental health is a major public health issue," Bekedam said.

The National Environmental Health Action Plan, developed and supported by MOH, SEPA and the WHO, will now be finalized," the official said, "which is a critical step in taking actions that actually lead to environmental improvements and better health outcomes."

The three main areas for action are China's rapid economic development and the ensuing environmental damage, rapid urbanization and the accompanying explosion in motor vehicle use, and coal combustion.

An evaluation by SEPA last year showed that as the country reached a growth rate of 10.9 percent in the first half of the year, it

also generated larger volumes of major pollutants. Bekedam said that China's economic development must be balanced by environmentally responsible practices if it is to be sustainable in the long term.

Motorized transport is now a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. In China there are around 34 million cars on the road, a figure that is growing by 12 percent each year. "Strategies for encouraging public transport use and cycling will go far in reducing the use of private vehicles and protecting the environment and improving human health," Bekedam said.

Coal usage accounts for more

than 70 percent of China's energy generation, and is the major source of air pollution in the country. According to Bekedam, strategies to limit coal usage, combined with increased energy efficiency, are urgently needed if China wants to make real inroads toward improving environmental health.

"The challenge of improving environmental health is not easy," he said. "Effecting long-term change will require a sustained, multi-sector approach." The WHO official said that his organization, with other UN agencies, was "ready to support China's efforts in all ways possible."

Watchdog cracks down on Guangdong garbage importers

By Chu Meng

The illegally-operated businesses that process plastic waste near the village of Lianjiao have been ordered to move, and the remaining plastic waste has been cleared away, said Chen Guangrong, deputy director of the Guangdong Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau this Wednesday.

The local government had earlier banned unlicensed businesses and individuals from importing plastic waste into Lianjiao, located in an industrial zone in the Nanhai District of Foshan City. The area has been a processing center for plastic waste since the 1970s. Britain's Sky News TV recently screened a program titled "Are you poisoning China?", revealing how Britain's plastic waste was ending up in Lianjiao.

"All the imported waste in the industrial zone most probably came from smuggling or other illegal channels, because none of the businesses in the zone which process imported waste plastic have received government approval," Chen said.

without explaining how almost two million tons of waste could be smuggled into the country. "We will not go soft in the crackdown on illegal imports of foreign waste."

Chinese law on the control of solid waste explicitly bans importing solid waste that cannot be recycled without causing harm. Importers of recyclable solid waste must be registered.

The State Environmental Protection Administration has said it is closely watching the progress of the British investigation into its exports and has been negotiating with European Union agencies to prevent illegal international shipments of harmful waste.

China customs uncovered 49 cases of hazardous waste smuggling last year, involving a total of 8,002 tons of solid waste, according to the official website of the General Administration of Customs. The Administration said most of the cases involved industrial and domestic waste from the European Union, the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan.



Han Xiaopeng takes gold medal at the Asian Winter Games

China's Han Xiaopeng won the Freestyle skiing Mens' Aerials at the Sixth Asian Winter Games Thursday in Changchun, Jilin province. Han had earlier won the gold medal in the Freestyle skiing Mens' Aerials at 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

CFP Photo

New Blue Book reviews, predicts Beijing development

By Jackie Zhang

The 2007 Beijing Blue Book was published by the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences (BASS) Monday. The *Beijing Blue Book* predicts that Beijing's GDP growth rate may fall to 11 percent this year and the high prices of city real estate will probably drop in the two to three years.

The *Beijing Blue Book*, published by BASS every year, paints a detailed, comprehensive picture of development in Beijing. It also provides the government with important materials for planning

the city's further development.

With most of the Olympic stadiums and related facilities to be completed this year, and real estate investment controlled by the government, the city's GDP will keep increasing but the rate of growth may drop to 11 percent.

Last year, high housing prices were one of the hottest issues among Beijing citizens. The statistics in the *Beijing Blue Book* show that the price of housing in Beijing increased 16.4 percent from 2005 to 2006. Although the central government had made some regu-

lations regarding real estate in Beijing, little effect can be seen.

BASS Vice director Dai Jianzhong said that the high housing price is not an economic problem but a social problem. "Housing conditions are an important problem that needs to be solved," Dai said. "The government has released related regulations and they should enforce them," he continued.

"The drop in housing prices will not be on a large scale," said Zhang Yun, director of BASS' management research department.

"It is quite possible that in the

short term, people of middle or low income levels will still not be able to afford housing in Beijing," said Zhang Yun.

The costs of medical care and education are two other major areas of public concern. Many complain about the cost of seeing doctors in hospitals, as well as extra charges that often accompany hospital visits. The dissatisfaction over education stems from an imbalance in the distribution of educational resources and facilities between the city and its far, suburban districts.

Government stresses modern agriculture

By Chu Meng

Developing modern agriculture is the Chinese government's top priority in its effort to improve conditions in the countryside, according to a central government document released on Monday.

The document, jointly released by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, is the first set of major policies to be released this year and focuses on rural development for the fourth consecutive year.

"Developing modern agriculture has proven to be the basic channel through which farmers' incomes can be increased," said the document. Last year, the per-capita income of Chinese farmers stood at 3,587 yuan (460 U.S. dollars), less than one third of the level of urban residents.

To bridge the wealth gap, the central government said it would pump more money into rural areas. Most of the fixed-assets investment and money earmarked for education, public health and culture this year should go to rural areas.

"The livestock breeding industry has a direct bearing on the lives of the general public, which is why governments at various levels must strengthen control over fodder quality," it said, urging more money be spent on subsidizing the breeding of fine dairy cattle and the prevention and control of animal epidemics.

Big brands go to Beijing's 'back garden'

By Gan Tian

Nearly one hundred international and local enterprises moved their headquarters to the outskirts of Beijing last year, breaking with the "headquarters in town and factories on the outskirts" business model, the National People's Congress (NPC) announced on Tuesday.

Many local enterprises began the trend by moving their headquarters away from downtown. Now, Huairou District, known as the "back garden of Beijing" has attracted many international companies with its geographical and environmental advantages. Dove, Whiskas, and nearly a hundred other world famous brands have already settled down there.

Li Jinshan, a deputy to the NPC, said that hi-tech enterprises are demanding more and more from their workplace's external environment, which is an important potential benefit for employees.

With the Beijing-Chengde Super Highway and the Airport North Line finished last year, Li said that a "30-minute economic circle" would be open to businesses by this year, meaning that factories on the outskirts of the city would be within 30 minutes of their headquarters downtown.

Wind to power Olympic venues

By Annie Wei

More than 30 windmills will be set up near the reservoir in Guanting, in suburban Yanqing district, to be Beijing's first green electricity generator, in a project costing a total 580 million yuan. The windmills will have an installed capacity of 50,000 kwatts.

Cai Xiaozhong of the Beijing Development and Reform Committee said the windmills would begin to generate power by the end of this year, a supply sufficient to meet the demand of one million families in Beijing, as well as the Olympic venues.

The Beijing Energy Investment

Company, which is undertaking the project, says it has been underway since August 2004. No windmills are in place around the reservoir yet, but some towers to test wind strength have been erected. Data collected from the test towers over the last two years shows there is enough wind at Guanting to power the proposed windmills.

Although the 100 million kWh generated by the windmills is a mere fraction of Beijing's annual electricity consumption of 60 billion watts, the move is still seen as significant given public concerns about future power needs and environmental issues.

According to the International Energy Agency in 2006, China's electricity demand will increase by 260 percent between 2000 and 2030, making China one of the world's biggest energy consumers. In the past few years, China has faced severe electricity shortages. The price of coal, which generates more than 70 percent of China's electricity, has been rising steadily, making wind power a viable alternative.

Since wind power is cheap and creates next to no pollution, why is it not more widely used? Zhao Yan of environmental NGO Greenpeace Beijing said wind power cur-

rently costs more than other power sources in China. Although wind power is seen as one of the best solutions for the global energy crisis, the initial investment is high. Li Rihua of Beijing Energy Investment Company said the cost of wind power is high mainly because of the expensive equipment required.

The Beijing Development and Reform Committee said that the government would subsidize the project to ensure wind power is affordable for city residents. The local development and reform committee in Yanqing district said the windmills would serve as a draw for tourists.

Online search for top killer

By Han Manman

The first ever competition sponsored by professional "killer" game website www.coolk8.com in conjunction with video website www.rox.com.cn will start in Beijing tomorrow. It is the first large-scale killer competition of its kind since the game caught on in China.

Killer is a card game that has gained enormous popularity in China in recent years. Pubs, clubs and restaurants are full of people playing the game, and it has even found its place on the Internet, where games can last a whole day. It involves players sitting around a table arguing over which one of them is the killer, with each person trying to prove their innocence to the group.

Over 30 Beijing professional killer clubs and amateur teams and hundreds of killer fans have signed up for the competition. Players will go through 10 rounds of selection over two months, before a lucky few reach the finals.

According to Coolk8, the competition aims to promote and enhance the popularity of the game. Fans will be able to watch the whole competition online, including the final, in videos posted on www.rox.com.cn.

The organizers say killer clubs are often misunderstood. Videos will allow Internet users to see what a killer club is and watch the actual games.

Brief news

Foreign tourists top 3.9 million

The capital played host to more than 3.9 million foreign tourists last year, of whom just 7.5 percent spent a combined total of US\$4 billion, according to the Municipal Tourism Administration's Fang Zehua.

Patents to foreigners

The country approved a total of some 58,000 patents last year, more than half of which were granted to foreigners, according to a news release from the State Intellectual Property Office.

Higher income for farmers

Average annual incomes for capital farmers rose to over 8,600 yuan (US\$1,100), up some nine percent on the figure for 2005 and crossing the 8,000 yuan mark for the first time, the Beijing Municipal Rural Affairs Committee announced this week.

Dedicated satellites for Games

China will launch two satellites dedicated to providing radio and TV relay services for the Beijing Olympic Games in June and October of this year, the China Satellite Communications Corporation announced this week.

Free education

The government has allocated over nine billion yuan (US\$1.2 billion) in subsidies to provide free compulsory education for some 150 million primary and junior middle school students in rural areas of China as of this year's Spring semester, the Ministry of Finance said on Wednesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)

First organ donor cards issued

By Annie Wei

China still has no national regulations for organ transplants, but a new initiative will see the country's first organ donor cards issued in three major cities, and an airline is offering free flights for eye transplant patients.

At a launch event this week, 120 medical workers and others from 10 organizations, including Shenzhen Airlines and international and local organ donation associations, announced the new card and a free service provided by Shenzhen Airlines that will allow patients to fly to Guangzhou for eye transplant surgery.

The yellow donor card resembles a plastic bank card, and carries the numbers of telephone donation hotlines in Shenzhen, Wuhan and Guangzhou, the three cities covered under the scheme. It gives the name and contact details of both the card holder and next of kin. Applicants for the card can register their information online.

"It is the first card of its kind in China," Professor Chen Zhonghua of the organ transplant section of Wuhan's Chinese Medical Association and one of the main movers of the initiative, said. Professor Chen said the limited coverage of the card scheme was the result of a lack of legislation covering organ donation and transplants. "China has said there can be no trade in organs for transplant but organ donations are permitted," said Chen.

Chen believes that despite its small beginnings, the card scheme will be a significant factor in raising public awareness of organ donation, and should help improve the donation rate. "China currently has one of the worst organ donation rates in the world," Chen said, "Some say this is because Chinese people won't donate but I don't think that's the reason. It's down to a lack of proper laws to support donation."

The first person to take a card was a 30-year old Zhong Xiaofeng, a migrant worker in Shenzhen. Zhong, who came to work in Shenzhen when she was 15 years old, was diagnosed with cancer last year. Moved by the help she has received from voluntary organizations during her illness, Zhong decided to donate her corneas after her death. Yao Xiaoming, a doctor at Shenzhen Eye Hospital, said Zhong died Jan 5 and her corneas have been used to help three people.

Chemical tank rolls over



A truck loaded with some 400 barrels of chemicals, rolled over early yesterday morning in Shangyu, Zhejiang province. No casualties were reported and the road has been cleared hours later.

Xinhua Photo

New cinema serves capital's blind people

By Chu Meng

In a single-story building on Guloudajie Road, Dongcheng District, a man in his 40s narrates the story of a movie into the microphone in his hand. The spartan room he sits in is nothing special to look at from the outside, but it is home to Beijing's first cinema for the blind.

The storyteller

The simple movie theater is called "the cinema of the heart." It was set up by Da Wei, who also provides narration. A ticket for a Hollywood movie at one of Beijing's five-star cinemas can cost as much as 70 yuan, but Da Wei's theater is free for blind film fans. "Though they cannot see, I hope they can feel these movies with their heart, bringing them into the colorful and fantastic world of movies. They should have the same rights as sighted people to enjoy the cinematic arts," Da Wei, who started his cinema in July 2005, said.

Though called a cinema, Da Wei's movie theater is actually a rented room just 30 meters square, with a TV set, a DVD player and a microphone. Da Wei pays the rent and bought all the equipment. Over the past year



Blind people enjoy movies thanks to narration.

Photo by Brook Wang

and a half, he has given full narration for 60 movies, ranging from big Hollywood hits like *Spiderman* or French classics like *Leon* to the popular Chinese titles.

The audience

Showings begin promptly at nine o'clock every Saturday morning, usually attracting about 20 blind movie fans, most regulars. But if the weather is fine, there could be as many as 40 or 50 people in the audience. Some even come right across town, a bus ride that can take hours.

Lao Zhao is one fan in his 50s. He said, "I was not born blind. I went blind twenty years ago because of a medical accident. For a long time before I came here I could hardly bring my visual and color memories to mind. I cried after the

first couple of times I came here, finding I could understand movies by listening. Simultaneous narration is vital for blind people watching a movie."

Lao Zhao gave an example. "There's a three minute's scene in *Amelie* where the girl walks through a street market. There is no dialog. If no one told us: she was a 20-year-old girl, slim, in a green skirt, white coat, short hair, very big eyes; she smiles a lot; she bends over to pick up a coin; it was a sunny morning; the market is busy and crowded, selling bread, carrots, honey melon; she walks into the entrance to a subway station; and so on, then we would miss out on the plot."

Volunteers

More and more volunteer storytellers, including office-workers, students, and even celebrities, come to help out at the cinema at the weekend. Da Wei has big plans for the future. "I want to build a theme park for blind people with miniatures of places in the city. All facilities must be blind-friendly. I hope more and more people will understand the blind, treat them equally, and not patronize them."



Many expat volunteers come to Songtang Hospital every year.

By Chen Shasha

"I have to congratulate you on having only 10,000 - 20,000 days to live," Li Wei, 58, president of Songtang Hospice, said as the prologue of his university lectures.

Li established China's first hospice in 1987.

Over the last 20 years, he's said farewell to more than 18,000 patients. "We are different, because almost all the patients here are close to death," he said.

As an educated youth who was sent from Beijing to Inner Mongolia during Cultural Revolution, Li was helped by a local elementary teacher Zhang, a university professor who was labeled a rightist and sent down to a rural elementary school.

When Zhang lay dying in 1970, he felt sad because he never did anything to merit the accusations made against him.

To try and give the man some final peace, Li lied to him and told him the Party finally decided to restore his reputation.

The experience made him reflect on death.

"Life is a line, not a circle – when you reach the end, there's nowhere else to go. The least we can do is to try to make people's final days a little happier," he said.

Early attempts

At the Songtang Hospice, green trees and ancient pavilions make the place look like a lively garden.

Although the aisle is a little dark and narrow, it's brightened by flowers, pictures of Santa Claus and young children; every two hours, sweet piano music accompanies a woman's announcement, "Please help grandmas and grandpas to drink water."

Songtang has a laundry list of 186 principles for its employees to follow, including communicating with patients, showing respect by taking their hands and carefully listening to their words – even if it's the 500th time they've said the same thing.

When a patient dies, care-workers and nurses should hold their hand to comfort them.

Trying to share patients' memories and show them respect is another rule.

"People are full of stories. Some of the patients here experienced World War II, the Cultural Revolution and the reform era – they're a living record of modern China," Li told hospice staff.

Zhang Yu, a volunteer in Songtang who chose to work full time after graduating from Beijing Normal University, said even a person with muddled memories and a frail frame at Songtang shouldn't be neglected.

They could be an old soldier who won a lot of battles, a professor who taught in top universities or a skilled blacksmith whose craft has now been lost, he said.



Songtang Hospital has a four-stories ancient-look building. Photo by Chen Shasha

Resting up for the eternal yawn

China's first hospice – Beijing Songtang Hospice – has been around for 20 years.

As a pioneer, its struggles reflect the changing fortunes of China's hospices.

Recent statistics showed that China's old people, above age 65, number more than 100,000,000, but only 3,000 are cared in 100 hospices dotting major cities.



When patients are dying, nurses hold their hands.

"At first, I came to show our concern and pity for these old people, but I realized they need more than that," Zhang said. He says talking with the patients can be a much-needed release from the grind of modern life.

"At first, I felt tired and nauseated when I had to keep washing urine out of their clothes and bedsheets, but after sharing their experience, I felt closer to them ... In the future, no matter how good we are or how much we earn, we will end up in the same state," Li Xinrong, a care worker who's worked in Songtang for seven years, said.

On each wall in Songtang, patients' old photos are displayed to show their bright past.

An 81-year-old patient who Beijing Today can only identify as

"Grandpa Tan" once taught Chinese in Beijing No 6 middle school; he pointed at the photos on his wall and said proudly, "Look, there I was singing on the stage."

Li said giving patients positive motivation can do more for their health than any kind of medical device.

Songtang aims to care for patient health to the very end.

"China has always emphasized a healthy birth, but failed to think about a way to have a 'healthy' death," Li said.

Although Li tries to make it clear to people that death is a part of life, Songtang Hospice has been forced to move no less than seven times.

"Neighbors were always furious and said it was unlucky to have a 'death hospital' near them," Li said. Luckily, they found a corner in Tongzhou that was undeveloped in 2003, and purchased the land as a permanent location for Songtang.



Six babies are cared for by Songtang staff.

Photos provided by Songtang Hospital

Recent problems

Songtang has overcome many problems in its 20 years of operation, but there are still troubles ahead.

The hospital only has four floors. Patients and care workers live on the first three floors, and nurses live on the fourth.

The small size has led to cramped conditions as China's old population has swelled, and in many wards of Songtang, eight

patients and a care worker are packed together into one congested room; rooms originally designed for six have had extra beds squeezed in.

In Songtang Hospice, care workers share rooms with patients and serve 24 hours a day – without weekends.

According to Li Xinrong, their work includes taking care of the patients in the room and cleaning.

The day begins with a 6am cleaning, after which they help patients eat and wash the beds. They have to wash all the clothes and bedsheet of the patients every day, and help them to turn over every two hours for nap time.

Care workers earn a basic 360 yuan per month, with an extra 20 yuan for each patient they look after.

Hard work and low pay has driven hundreds of workers to leave – some even quit after the first day. When care-workers were in shortage, one staff

paid a one-time lump sum of 8,000 yuan to Songtang and disappeared after changing all their contact information.

"Some of the babies made a miraculous recovery, but even so, we could never locate the parents of 95 percent of them," Zhu Lin, vice-president of Songtang said.

"We are afraid to use the media for help. One day, a news station asked for public help to find a Songtang baby's parents. The next day, a new baby was found on our doorstep!"

Songtang is constructing a special "baby room" on the side of the hospice.

Songtang is not alone.

According to Li Baoku, president of China National Committee on Aging, hospices all over China face the same problems as Songtang.

Lack of money is part of the problem – almost all the hospices in China were established by private capital and receive no public funding.

"The environment isn't as good as it could be," Li Baoku said. Patients in hospices can't enjoy medical insurance like they can in official hospitals, which turn many terminally ill patients away.

In Songtang Hospice, the monthly cost for each patient is 1,200 yuan – not including cost of medicine.

However, many patients chose it not for the low cost, but because they had no other choice.

Grandpa Tan and his roommates said they felt a burden to their children who were busy with work and had no way to stay home with them. Official hospitals refuse to admit them because their illnesses are terminal.

Li Baoku said China only has about one hundred hospices, all in major cities only, and 60 of them are unprofessional.

"Songtang's problems are not ours alone, but a reflection of what our society as a whole faces," Li Wei said.



Electronic waste from all over the world is processed in China.

CFP Photo

E-waste assuming alarming proportions in China

BELJING (ANI) – If statistics released by the China Home Electronics Association are to be believed, around 150 million home appliances, including TV sets, washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners and computers, are discarded every year in the country, along with an unknown amount of other electronic items.

Also, according to a report by the Beijing-based Science and Technology Daily (the official newspaper of China's Ministry of Science and Technology), an astounding 80 percent of the home electronics thrown out in developed countries end up on container ships bound for Asia, with 90 percent of those destined for China.

Only 10 percent of this discarded e-waste gets re-cycled. The rest is dumped, which poses a pollution threat, affecting the quality of underground water and increasing its lead content.

Experts have said that home

electronics account for a huge share of the e-waste generated every year and that home electronics are the type of e-waste most urgently in need of a legal or regulatory regime to cover their recycling.

The improper treatment of electronics can create serious pollution that takes more than a century to dissipate, exposing men, women, and children in those parts of China's countryside where it is processed to major health hazards.

Electronic items are in great demand among waste collectors.

They can have used TV sets repaired and sold in the countryside, or they can simply sell them to the many small workshops that rely on simple methods like acid baths or fire to extract precious metals from e-waste. The process creates large amounts of toxic gases and releases waste water containing poisonous amounts of lead and mercury into lakes, rivers and farmland.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"The amount of domestically generated electronic waste in China will reach a peak within 10 or 15 years, because our people will begin to discard more home appliances as China's population and consumption capacity grow. Domestic electronic waste, combined with that dumped in our country from overseas, will present a major threat to the environment," Wu Yuping, vice researcher of the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, warned.

"We need all the various official agencies who deal with this issue in their remits to work hard to reduce the threat posed by electronic waste. Domestically-generated electronic waste should be tackled through government regulation of the whole manufacturing process, beginning with the production and sales of electronic products and covering everything through to their recycling. I would also like to see customs agencies imposing more severe penalties on the import of electronic waste," Wu said.

"A trial program is underway in Qingdao, northern China, and Hangzhou in the south, exploring better regulation of the recycling and processing electronic waste. Qingdao's leading home appliance producers, which includes big brands like Haier, are required to take care of recycling the waste from their products. A processing center will be set up in Hangzhou to collect discarded home appliances and electronic products for recycling and make them harmless to the environment," Wu said.

Beijing bulges with 15.6 million permanent residents

BELJING (Bernama) – Beijing is bulging at the seams with 15.6 million permanent residents, and the city government may have to rein in population growth by granting fewer 'hukou,' or permanent residence certificates, to new settlers in the coming years.

Beijing had 15.6 million permanent residents at the end of last year, a rise of 1.4 percent,

or 220,000 people, from 2005, a Xinhua report quoted Deng Xinzhou, head of the city's family planning committee, as saying at a press conference Thursday.

The city has an additional four million migrants.

About 12 million of the permanent residents hold Beijing 'hukou' permits and most of the remaining 3.6 million have secured jobs and even bought

homes that enable them to settle down in the capital, Deng said, quoting the results of a recent survey by the municipal statistical bureau.

Of the new permanent population, 122,000 were new settlers and about 98,000 were newborn babies.

The influx of new settlers had slowed from around 160,000 people in 2005 but was still

huge compared with the average annual increase of 50,000 to 60,000 new settlers in the mid 1990s, according to Deng.

Overpopulation is putting considerable pressure on the city's natural resources and environment. Water shortages are set to reach a crisis point in 2010, when the population will top 17 million – three million more than its resources can feed.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"It's evident that administrative means alone will not solve this problem, because residence regulations proved to be unsuccessful in keeping the capital's population under control," Zhai Zhenwu, president of the School of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University of China, said.

"Were the government to place barriers on migration to control the influx of population, people may think it unfair. Also, the capital needs to attract skilled workers from across the country as a precondition for sustaining economic development," Zhai added.

"The huge population, which puts such great pressure on resources and infrastructure in the capital, is largely a result of an inappropriate mix of industries. It would make more sense if the capital could adjust its industrial structure to give prominence to high technology sectors and businesses requiring less unskilled labor," Zhai said.

"Internal adjustments of Beijing's industrial structure will not be enough, however. If more balanced development could be achieved within the city cluster of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province, it would help to spread the influx of population," Zhai concluded.

Beijing to ensure epidemic-free 2008 Olympics

New Delhi (ANI) – Beijing Municipal Health authorities have said that every care was being taken to ensure that no epidemic or health scare spreads in the city next year during the 2008 Olympics are held there.

They said any injured or sick athletes would get immediate and excellent medical treatment.

"Health security preparations for the 2008 Olympics are on in full swing," the *China Daily* quoted Beijing Municipal Health Bureau's deputy chief Deng Xiaohong as saying at a press conference in Beijing.

He said that the Bureau will have strict control measures in place to ensure that imported food products are safe and drinking water free of contamination at the Olympic village, competition venues, public media and conference centers and hotels.

The city will have medical teams ready to deal with any emergencies, he said.

Ancient temples refurbished

BELJING (AP) – Amid its frenzied citywide makeover for the 2008 Olympics, Beijing unveiled two centuries-old temples last Friday that were salvaged from decades of neglect and saved from the current construction boom.

The modest temples, one to a fertility goddess, the other to a dragon deity who controls rain and rivers, sit on either end of the Olympic Green, a 1,000-acre expanse that will be the center of the Games and that is now abuzz with construction.

Their rescue is part of a promise China's leaders made in bidding for the Games – that the Olympics would foster historic preservation in an ancient capital that has often neglected the past as it hurtles toward the future.

"Beijing is a city rich in cultural relics, so the construction of venues had to be connected to the protection of relics," Kong Fanzhi, director of the Beijing Cultural Relics Protection Bureau, told reporters as he stood in a courtyard of the partly restored Niang Niang Temple. "Our slogan is to have a 'Cultural Olympics.'"

The Niang Niang Temple, was named for a Daoist goddess and built 500 years ago during the Ming Dynasty. The 350-year-old Dragon King's Temple, has served in recent decades as a storehouse for farm equipment.

No more promotion coupons

BEIJING (Febre2fashion.com) – Officials issued a warning to marketplaces that they will face consequences if they fail to follow the decision to use clear discounts made in the meeting with 47 department stores of Beijing.

Marketplaces are offering direct discount instead of sales-promotion coupons. This has led to a considerable decrease in marketplace profit.

Beijing Mobile users to get free incoming calls

Beijing, February 1 (Xinhua) – Beijing Mobile, part of China Mobile, China's largest mobile phone operator, plans to dramatically slash its mobile fees in early February with a monthly package based on a one-way billing scheme.

The caller-pays scheme, in which incoming calls are free for the person who receives the call,

has been welcomed by China Mobile and China Unicom subscribers in pilot areas in Guangdong, Shanghai and Tianjin, allowing the companies to reinforce their position in the market.

That has put the pressure on land-line operators China Telecom and China Netcom to lower costs and improve services.

The best way to boost China Telecom and China Netcom's business is to grant them 3G licenses, allowing them to get into the mobile phone business and compete with rivals on an equal footing, China Securities News quoted an unnamed analyst as saying.

This fits with government efforts to establish a new balance

of power among the nation's major telecom players, the analyst said.

The newspaper said China Telecom is keen to get into the mobile phone sector.

Latest figures show there were 70 million new mobile phone subscribers in China last year, but only 17 million new fixed-line phones.

Chinese firm to re-start MG car production

Beijing, January 31 (Reuters) – Nanjing Automobile Group said it will re-start the production of the MG sports car in England within weeks, ending a two-year halt after MG Rover collapsed with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

Nanjing Auto took over MG Rover for 50 million pounds in 2005. It plans to make 6,000 TF sports cars a year.

"Production in England will begin in April or May," Lü Qiang, public affairs director of Nanjing MG Motor, told Reuters.

Nanjing Auto shipped some

MG production lines to China, where the first cars using MG technology are expected to be ready by late-March, Lü said.

It will also build China's first car plant in the United States – a facility in Oklahoma to produce MG sports cars and sedans.

"We don't have a timetable for US production," Managing Director Yu Jianwei told Reuters.

The company will make four models in China and the right-hand drive MG TF sports car at Longbridge in the English Midlands.

China Paradise de-listed

By Chen Shasha

China Paradise (Yongle), China's third largest electronics chain, was de-listed at the Hong Kong stock exchange this Wednesday – its shares acquired by Gome Electrical Appliances Holding Ltd, China's top home electronics chain.

At the end of November, Gome owned 230,000,000 shares of Yongle, accounting for 98.24 percent of Yongle's stock.

This week, Gome bought the rest of Yongle's share and finished the merger.

As part of the deal, Gome gave 0.325 new Gome shares and HK\$0.17 (US\$0.02) cash for each Yongle share.

With the merger, Gome will expand in the mainland market, and place most of its focus on Shanghai, Li Juntao, vice president of Gome, said.

Marsh licensed foreign insurance broker

Beijing, January 31 (PTI) – Marsh, the world's biggest insurance brokerage, has become the first licensed foreign broker in China.

The insurance broker will expand business from current risk consulting to brokerage of large scale commercial risk, reinsurance, and international

marine, aviation, and transport insurance.

Marsh has been in China for 25 years, with three offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, and is heading to Chengdu in western China.

The firm will operate in China as Marsh (Beijing) Insurance Brokers Co Ltd.

Historic brand files overseas infringement suit

By Huang Daohen

A century-old famous Chinese brand, Wang Zhihe, is suing a German company for trademark infringement, the first time an established Chinese brand has used overseas litigation to protect its trademarks. A court in Munich officially filed the suit last Friday.

A spokesperson for the Wang Zhihe Group surnamed Li said they first became aware of the alleged infringement last August.

Its franchisee in Germany, OKAI, registered three of the company's trademarks in March last year, including those for the group's preserved bean curd,

spices and sales service. Wang Zhihe tried to negotiate with OKAI, but failed.

"It is clear that this is a malicious trademark infringement," Wang Hongqing, the group's lawyer, said this week. "We have ample evidence to win back our trademarks."

Since China and Germany are both members of the World International Property Organization, the group should also enjoy protection of its trademarks in Germany, Wang added.

The group is now registering its trademarks simultaneously in 34 countries and regions to prevent similar infringements.



Microsoft Vista's China debut

Customers try the new Microsoft operating system Windows Vista in Beijing this week.

Microsoft unveiled the long-awaited Windows Vista globally Tuesday.

The company's chief Bill Gates led a global marketing assault for the operating system, and promised the software will revolutionize the use of computers.

Last year, Microsoft signed a series of landmark licensing agreements with the mainland's large computer manufacturers to allow the sale of PCs with pre-installed, licensed Windows Vista operating system software.

Microsoft said some of its corporate customers in China such as the Lenovo Group Ltd, China's largest PC maker, now pre-install software on 70-80 percent of their PCs.

Xinhua Photo

Hershey, Lotte set up China JV

By Chen Shasha

The Hershey Co, North America's leading chocolate and confectionery manufacturer, signed a contract with Lotte Confectionery Co LTD, Korea's leading confectionery and ice cream manufacturer, this week to set up a joint venture in Jinshan, Shanghai to make a variety of Hershey's and Reese's products.

The facility is expected to open this June.

The joint venture's products will be available in retail locations by August.

Peugeot China's sales up

Shanghai, February 1 (Reuters) – PSA Peugeot Citroën's China office said it sold over 200,000 vehicles, a 43 percent increase, in China in 2006, and would continue to roll out new models to attract buyers.

The French automaker wants to sell 260,000 units this year, and hopefully top 300,000 units by 2008.

To do this, the venture will introduce eight new models in the world's second-largest auto market before 2009.

SAS increases flights to Beijing

Beijing, February 1 (newsdesk.se) – SAS, Scandinavian Airlines, will increase its China flights from several locations in Nordic countries to ten. From March 25, 2007, it will be possible to fly nonstop from Stockholm to Beijing.

With Beijing's geographical location and the new airport terminal that will be completed later in 2007, SAS believes Beijing will be an excellent point for transfer.

DHL domestic air-freight approved

Shanghai, January 30 (BIZ-Journal) – Top logistics company DHL announced the launch of its domestic airfreight service in China this week, becoming the first international logistics company permitted to operate internally in China.

DHL will build 30 branches or warehouses covering 73 cities in the next five years, requiring an investment of more than US\$20 million.

Alliance Boots joins Beijing Med-Pharm

Beijing, February 1 (Business Journal) – Beijing Med-Pharm Corp said it has formed a joint venture with Alliance Boots PLC to acquire a 50 percent stake in Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corp, the third-largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in China, for US\$69 million.

Alliance Boots, a health and beauty products company based in London, will own 80 percent of the joint venture. Beijing Med-Pharm of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, will own the remaining 20 percent.

Ronaldo to sue throat lozenge maker



Ronaldo meets the press after arriving in Milan Thursday ahead of his transfer to AC Milan.

Xinhua / AFP Photo

Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo is set to sue a Guangxi-based drug manufacturer, Golden Throat Group, that has used his image to promote their brand of throat lozenges in television commercials without his approval, a representative of the player was quoted as saying last week.

The advertisement, which shows a grinning Ronaldo holding up a packet of Golden Throat lozenges, was shot in 2003 when the Brazilian visited China with his team, Real Madrid. It has since been shown regularly on regional stations and even the main state-run China Central Television.

It is claimed the star was invited to dinner by Golden Throat during his stay in Beijing, and paid US\$300,000 for photos and videos to be taken during the meal. Nothing was said, however, about what the photos and video footage was to be used for.

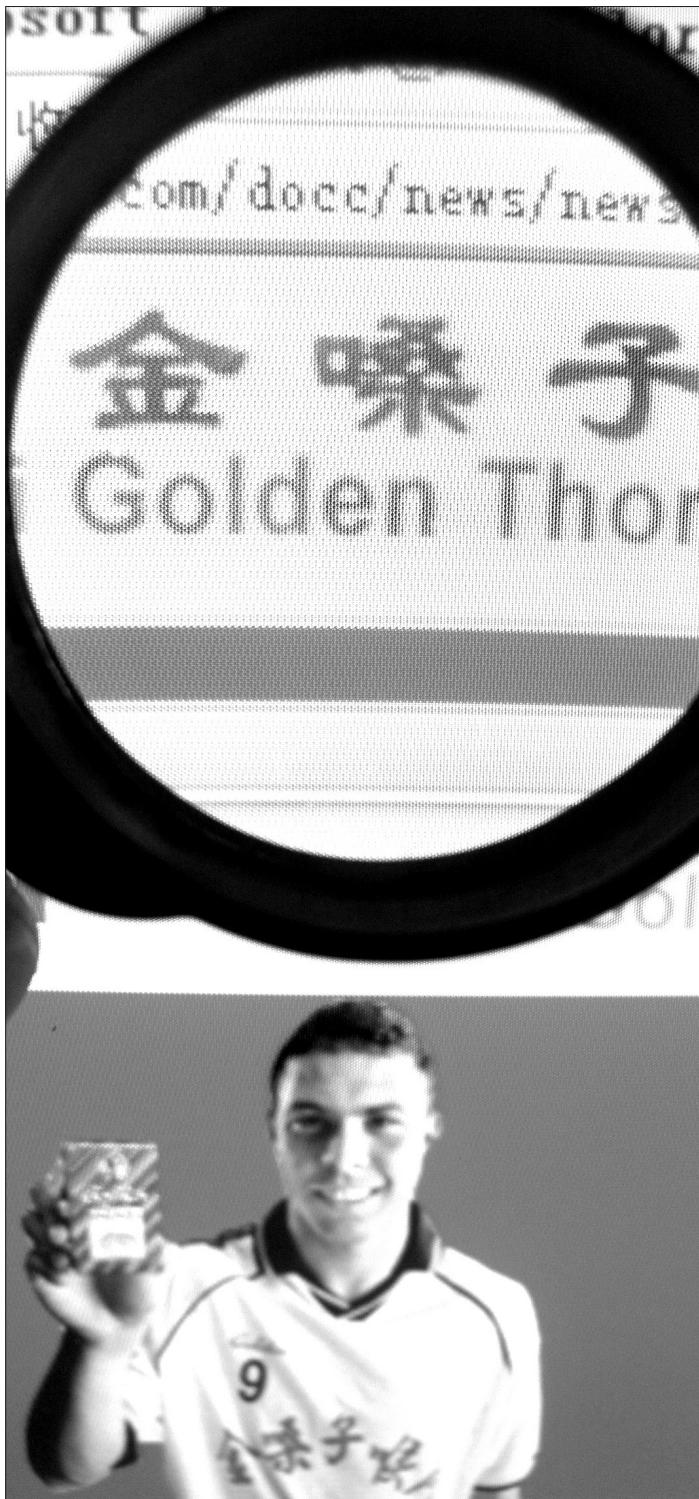
Ronaldo was apparently unaware that his image was being used until another Chinese drug firm asked him to end his endorsement of Golden Throat, during negotiations for a different promotional contract.

It is claimed Ronaldo missed as many as seven opportunities to sign contracts with Chinese enterprises because of the Golden Throat campaign. His representative says each of these deals could have netted the star well in excess of three million euros a year.

Chinese lawyers, the representative said, have been appointed to collect evidence to back Ronaldo's claim. He will come to China and hold a press conference early next month.

Attempts to contact a spokesperson for Golden Throat proved fruitless, but Ronaldo's image is still on the front page of the drug maker's website.

(Source: Time China Blog and CRI)



The Brazilian star still appears on the front page of the Golden Throat Group's website.

CFP Photo

Comment

Why is it necessary to show the face of a famous soccer player to promote your products? A little thinking will tell that his skills and his looks have nothing to do with the product in question. Get another pretty face and pay for the endorsement.

– hia

I always thought Ronaldo made an odd shill for a Chinese cough medicine. What is up with Ronaldo's agent? Is the guy really into Chinese medicine or does he just have a perverse sense of humor?

– Sanyh

He should do it for free, or send the money to help the poorest in China, as he was once a poor himself in Rio in Brazil.

– david

If you work in China, you need to be aware of things like this. Contracts seem to have a different meaning in China, and the Chinese way of doing things isn't the same as international norms.

– Concerned

Because of this campaign, he got put on a list of the top 10 most unpopular spokespeople in a commercial ad.

– xiaohei

I think this is hilarious. I've seen the ad, and in it Ronaldo is clearly without makeup. He would spend at least an hour dressing up before shooting an ad.

– HawkEyes

I am truly glad that they are being sued now. Hope that they are fined heavily!

– Mimi

The design of the ad, if you have seen it, was really awful for an international football star. And apart from this ad, you don't see Ronaldo involved in any other commercial activities for the enterprise, which makes no sense if he was under a contract with them.

– Sangang111

I guess someone will get a sore backside from the sore throat ad, and maybe their pocket will also feel a some pain. Wonder what happened to the US\$300,000; maybe it was just loose change for such a megastar footballer? Did he pay Chinese income tax on the 2.4 million yuan income?

– Y3

(By Huang Daohen)

Student seeks girlfriend for hire

By Huang Daohen

A desperate physics student at Beijing University posted a want ad on campus last Friday, offering 1,000 yuan for a "nice girl" to pose as his girlfriend when he returns home next month for Spring Festival.

The physics student, who gave his name as Zhu Lijie, claims that he has been too busy in the lab to find a real girlfriend and his parents are putting a lot of pressure on him to find a suitable match. The advertisement said the girl should be "an honest, kind and similar-aged girl with a diploma." She would be expected to accompany Zhu for a trip lasting 10 days.

The Lunar New Year holiday, which starts February 18 this year, is the most important family holiday in China. Zhu had assured his parents, who are eager to meet a prospective daughter-in-law, that he had met a potential partner who would be accompanying him on his visit home.

Zhu has received around a dozen interested replies to his controversial want ad. Zhu did choose a respondent who is a classmate of his, but no longer has plans to go home for the Lunar New Year.

Beijing University officials and the police have warned young women to beware of such advertisements, especially at this time of year. Professor Wang Jisheng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Psychology Institute was quoted as saying Zhu was trying to show filial piety, but was only cheating his parents.

Comment

I don't think we should approve of behavior like this. Some might be looking for a sexual partner whilst pretending they were fulfilling their parents' expectations! If this sort of thing carries on, it will end up as sexual procurement under another name!

– daveh

That was the oldest profession in the world. I'm reminded of "rent-a-girlfriend" services in Thailand. A girl is hired for a night, or a number of days. Western nationals patronize this flesh trade more than others. Ever wondered when you see a western man walking around somewhere in Thailand with a stunning Thai girlfriend on his arm? Now you know.

– ukmassage

It's common for college students to stay single. From my perspective, parents shouldn't be so unreasonable and force their sons or daughters to bring a suitable match home. I can understand parents' worries and expectations, but I would certainly never force my daughter to bring home a boyfriend, though I might joke about it sometimes.

– Lzy54

I can empathize with Zhu's filial piety. Besides, there is also a chance they may get together because of the trip, though of course, it could also be a bad experience for everyone involved.

– Goodwill

The boy might not want to find a girlfriend; perhaps it's all just too much pressure from his parents. Whatever, young women shouldn't get involved in things like this. It's something people will pay for and there will always be someone desperate enough to do it, but even if that's life, it's sad.

– Wocca

Society should be more open. It is no big deal. Perhaps it's one of those things in modern life we'll have to get used to.

– Haosan

This is a real social problem. We should not simply say that it is right or wrong. There's a whole range of reasons why young people are not marrying these days.

– Chada

It seems we read this kind of story every year, and it's usually reported for general amusement. I doubt these kinds of advertisement really work, even if it says Zhu finally got his "girl."

– Donna

I really could not understand Zhu's behavior. Two people without any emotional connection will not get on well, and it would be even more embarrassing if people found out he'd hired his "girlfriend." It would also hurt his parents' feelings if they knew he'd deceived them.

– Linda

(By Huang Daohen)

Yankees send China emissaries, search for Baseball's Yao



Randy Levine (third) and Hu Jianguo (fourth) (from left to right) exchange uniforms.

Photo provided by www.sport.gov.cn

By Jiang Xubo

In an effort to boost the popularity of baseball in China, the New York Yankees (NYY) will send coaches, development personnel and scouts to China to train Chinese players at its overseas facilities, according to an agreement between the baseball giant and Chinese Baseball Association (CBA) announced this week.

"I hope to send our staff

to China within the next few months, and hopefully, in a very short time, Chinese players will be in the United States and wherever Major League Baseball (MLB) is played," Randy Levine, president of the NYY, said.

"There will be a lot of great players, like a Yao Ming for Chinese baseball. You have physical talent here. It's just a question of catching up on the training and

a matter of time," Levine added, wearing the gray jacket and red cap of the Chinese national team, which he received from his Chinese counterpart in exchange for a Yankees jacket and cap.

"Chinese baseball has made a lot of progress in the last several years, thanks to help from organizations like the MLB. We believe the agreement will help boost interest in baseball in China

and bring the country's baseball sport to a higher level," Hu Jianguo, president of CBA, said.

Baseball is not widely played in China, though it was introduced to the country in the late 19th century.

The 4-year-old Chinese Baseball League only has 10 teams, which come from provinces and cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Henan, and

about 500 professional players.

Yet, baseball is gaining popularity in schools and universities nationwide, including Beijing University, Tsinghua University and Fudan University, according to the CBA.

The New York Yankees has a history over 100 years long, and has won 26 championships out of 39 appearances in the World Series.

Bond balks at Beijing bootleggers

By Han Manman

It doesn't say much for the fame of 007 in China when, on his first day in the country, *Casino Royale* star Daniel Craig, the latest in a series of Bonds, was approached by a vendor seeking to sell him a bootleg copy of the new movie.

The price to see himself on DVD: US\$1.50.

For the first time in the series' 45-year history, Bond has won over Chinese censors, but media and fans were disap-

pointed by Craig's stern appearance at the news conference and on the red carpet.

"It saddens me," he said, "Going to the cinema is a great experience. You're missing out by watching a bad copy on DVD."

Accompanied by co-star Eva Green and director Martin Campbell, Craig said he felt "privileged" to show the movie "in a country I've been eager to visit for a long time."

Craig made the most of his time in China and explored the

Forbidden City with his girlfriend, film producer Satsuki Mitchell, before moving on to Shanghai for the Tuesday premiere.

The latest installment tells how Britain's top secret agent prevents a banker with terrorist connections from winning a high-stakes gambling tournament.

Die Another Day, the last outing, was rejected reportedly due to its depiction of North Korea as a terrorist haven.

The flick has opened Tuesday in more than 1,000 cinemas

across the mainland – the widest release ever for a foreign film.

With as much as US\$500 million banked at the box office, *Casino Royale* is already the top-grossing Bond installment of all time.

007 fans reacted badly to the news that Craig to play Bond, but his performance in *Casino Royale* has won most over.

Photo provided by Sony Pictures Entertainment



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Embassy surveys failing ROK companies in China

By Han Manman

More and more small and medium sized South Korean companies in China have collapsed in recent years – especially the last year.

The Republic of Korea (ROK) embassy cooperated with many ROK business organizations in a five-day survey of over 50 companies in China about their business situations and operation troubles.

Kim Dongsun, the ROK's embassy commercial counselor, said that more and more small and medium-sized Korean companies and factories have closed down or withdrawn all their capital overnight due to rising labor fees and the reduction of the local government's preferential taxation policies.

Some companies have even left without paying workers.

Kim said that from January 21-25, he visited over 50 small to medium-sized companies and factories in many cities, including Guangzhou, Dongguan, Qingdao and Yantai, with experts from the Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Korean Commercial Association and related institutes.

After the five-day survey, they found real reasons behind the collapse.

Embassy business officer Oh Seung Chul said the survey report has already been handed in to the embassy, and the government is considering assisting ROK companies in China.

China's economy is growing fast, and that leads to rapid wage increases for China's lowest-paid workers; high labor

costs are the main threat to ROK companies, he said.

The situation for manufacturing companies and labor-intensive industries, like the toy, clothing and leather industries, is more severe. The biggest problem they face is a labor shortage, he said.

"Most small to medium sized companies are doing processing work in China. They have trouble recruiting suitable local workers, as salary demands are increasing. Korean companies can't afford to pay as much as other foreign companies, so many local workers quit to seek higher pay elsewhere," he said.

Another reason, he said, is that the Chinese government has cut tax breaks for the processing industry.

"The survey found that profits in this industry are shrinking fast,

and many companies have outsourced to local businesses. We also found two companies in Qingdao that fled China overnight without paying their workers. The number of Korean companies in Dongguan has fallen from 40 to 15 in the last year alone," he said.

The embassy is working with the ROK government to assist companies, acting as a bridge between local vocational schools and ROK companies seeking workers.

The embassy will invite Korean experts familiar with the Chinese market to give suggestions and support to ROK companies.

"These companies are mostly located in coastal cities. We will send a survey team to inspect midwest and northeast China to learn whether these may be better locations for ROK businesses," Oh said.

UNDP supports AIDS families through credit

By Qiu Jiaoning

A microfinance initiative by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has empowered people living with HIV/AIDS in Shanxi province to lift themselves out of poverty and restore hope to their lives, an UNDP announcement said.

Over 130 households affected by HIV/AIDS have benefited from the project's microfinance scheme, and other affected households are eager to join.

Through starting household enterprises or scaling up existing income generating activities, such as animal husbandry, some beneficiaries have doubled or tripled their annual incomes.

"Microfinance is a powerful mechanism for empowerment and poverty reduction because it unleashes the drive and innovation of the poor, including people living with HIV/AIDS, to improve their own lives and grow out of deprivation," Alessandra Tisot, senior deputy resident representative of UNDP in China, said.

Entitled "Community-Based HIV/AIDS Care, Prevention and Poverty Reduction," the project aims to improve livelihood, self-reliance and human dignity for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families through enhanced skills and access to microfinance services, and to build a replicable model for poverty reduction among people living with or affected by the virus.

Shanxi is one of the Central China provinces with an HIV epidemic among former commercial plasma and blood donors. The total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in both project counties around Yuncheng city account for nearly half of the province.

Wu Juxian, vice mayor of Yuncheng city, said microfinance loans have helped over 130 households; over 1,200 people received material assistance, technical support and training and psychological support; over 400 children were provided with school fees, stationery and other study materials.

The UNDP and the Chinese government provided guidance and broadened multi-sector partnerships by selecting the Rural Credit Cooperatives (RCC), which have extensive networks down to township and village levels across rural China, to implement the microfinance institution.

One of the most important aspects involving people living with HIV/AIDS is the need to maintain confidentiality of their HIV status; therefore, special training programs were conducted for loan managers and other staff members of the RCC.

The loan agreements state explicitly that the cooperatives may not disclose the HIV status of the beneficiary.

In the near future, UNDP, in partnership with local governments, hopes to further integrate and scale this model to include ethnic minority areas also heavily affected by AIDS.

UNICEF helps mothers and children in China's poor regions

By Qiu Jiaoning

Under a UNICEF project to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children in China's poorest areas, some UNICEF experts, including Karen Mok, ambassador of UNICEF's Hong Kong Committee, visited Gansu Province for a week to see first-hand how project activities benefit mothers and their babies, a UNICEF official announced this week at a Beijing press conference.

"With so many poor families in the province, I was able to see for myself how children very desperately need the basic health care UNICEF provides, so as to have that all-important chance to develop to their fullest potential," Mok said at the conference in Beijing's Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

Mok was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for Poverty Alleviation in 2004, and since May 2005 has been a full Ambassador for the Hong Kong Committee of UNICEF.

The committee raised over US\$1 million for the China Children's Health Fund in 2006, which supports UNICEF projects in China.



Ms Karen Mok visited 6-year-old boy Liang Liang, whose mother died giving birth at home.

Photo provided by UNICEF

Six-year-old Liang Liang's mother had only one medical check-up during pregnancy and gave birth at home.

She had serious breathing problems after delivery, and, after one hour, she died. His father traveled to another province to earn a living, and his grandparents were left to raise him.

To bring laughs into Liang

Liang's life, Mok brought him toys and encouraged the grandparents to be strong. She wants to stress that all pregnant women need regular check-ups and to give birth in medical facilities – not at home.

Mok's field visit to Gansu was made with a film crew from TVB-HK, which will use the footage to produce a UNICEF

fund-raising TV special, *China Children's Health Fund Monthly Donation Programme*.

Since 2006, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Health to develop a mother and child health intervention package in 50 counties of 13 provinces, and aims to achieve a substantial reduction in maternal and child mortality.

US embassy stresses overlooked citizen services

By Chu Meng

The United States Embassy in China, Beijing, invited major media for a one-day tour to reiterate important but overlooked services available to American citizens.

Guarded by a marine, the citizen services office looked solemn and small; the reception area was only big enough for 15 people.

"This room is usually very

crowded. Queues can extend across the office hall and out of the door, since many American citizens travel or work in China these days," Katherine Lawson, consul of American citizen services section, said.

Besides regular services like citizen registration, birth registration, voting registration and passport issues, Lawson said the

embassy has started an emergency passport service.

"Emergency Passports are a new service for US citizens who have had their passport lost or stolen. Usually, replacing a lost or stolen passport takes seven working days, an Emergency Passport can be issued within hours. It's useful for those stay in China only for two or three days," she said.

In the case of a lost or stolen passport, the loss must be reported to the local Public Security Bureau first.

"You must apply in person in the embassy. You must bring the original police report from the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, US\$97.00 for adults or US\$82.00 for children 16 and under and 'proof of identity.'

French pros get known by snowboarding fans

By Annie Wei

Beijing's main winter sports can be found on the slopes. Whenever this reporter asks a male friend their weekend plans, the answer, almost all the time, is snowboarding.

So, which is the most popular snowboarding park? "Nanshan Mellow Park and Crystal Park in Shijingshong," Li Wei, a snowboard fan working for a Japanese university's recruiting office, said. His friend Simon Xue, who works for Disney, agreed. These two plan to organize dozens of friends, local and expat, to snowboard through the entire winter.

Nanshan Mellow Park is the oldest snowboarding venues. It was started by an Austrian man Steve Zdarsky, who has been known for some time by enthusiasts as the god-father of China's snowboarding scene. Crystal Park in Shijingshong is a new area designed by Crystal Entertainment, a snowboarding promotion company run by some French pros. They are raising awareness of the sport – and their venture – by bringing fans into the park and holding frequent events.

Last week, Crystal entertainment organized China's first ever inter-club contest and second Boardercross event. In terms of the number of competitors, the 50 riders gathered at Shijingshong ski resort consti-



More than 50 riders joined in the Boardercross contest last weekend.

Photo provided by Crystal Entertainment

tuted the biggest snowboarding even in the history of Beijing, and Beijing Snowboard Club won with the most number of riders in the top eight list.

"It was great fun," Nicolas Ciriego, from Crystal entertainment, said. A Boardercross contest is a race on a special slope with

hoops, elevated turns and tables. "It's very easy and safe to ride, even for beginners," he said.

After just two years in Beijing, Crystal Entertainment is happy with the increasing snowboarding scene. They will hold another event on February 10, as well as a party for snowboarding fans at

Zub, a bar near Wudaokou, Haidian District.

"Snowboarding attracts more and more young people," Ciriego said. Most of the snowboarders Ciriego knows are Chinese students, he said, which is why his venture is based in Wudaokou, a popular student hang-out.

Events

Illustrated Talk: Lantern Festival in Yan'an

Hei Ming, a famous photographer, will share his experiences and pictures from Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival in Yan'an and surrounding villages. Located in the Shaanxi Yellow River and Plateau regions, these farmers have developed unique customs and culture.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: February 7, 7:30pm

Cost: 40 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

Chinese New Year Finger Painting

Suitable for parents with young children

Where: China World Campus, Level 1 North Lodge, No 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: February 7, 2pm-3pm

Tel: 6505 3869/2288 ext 81299

Kids Club at the Bookworm

Bring your kids for fun, informal story telling sessions, with games, puzzles and activities designed to encourage a love of books and reading. Hosted by story teller Zoi Sakintos.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: February 11, 10am

Cost: 40 yuan per child

Email:

bookwormjenny@gmail.com

(By He Jianwei)

US environmentalist meets Chinese reporters

By Jackie Zhang

Phil Gutis, communications director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) in the United States came to Beijing Wednesday and held a seminar with Chinese journalists on how American reporters cover environmental issues.

The NRDC is a US-based environmental action organization. They protect the planet's wildlife and wild places to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things. As the director of communications, Phil Gutis works with 30 press staffers from the NRDC's branches in New York, Washington DC, Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

Gutis said in his talk that media reports on environmental issues can help improve environmental conditions.

"Reporting can on the one hand motivate the public to care about environment, and on the other hand help the government know what they should do and how they should do it," he said.

Gutis said that the more accurate and incisive the article, the more help it can be to governments and organizations



Gutis shares his experience with Chinese media.

Photo by Wang Yongchen

working to improve conditions and solve problems.

Gutis encouraged the Chinese media to use the Internet, with its low cost and extensive reach, to disseminate information to the public.

Besides communicating with journalists on how to report environmental news, Gutis also introduced the NRDC's ten-year plan on environmental protection, which included a special program for helping to construct a green China.

"We chose China for the program because China has a large population and is in the process of industrial development," Gutis said.

Noting that the United States

had spent 50 years generating unchecked industrial pollution, Gutis told the journalists that he was "not sure whether China has that much time to improve its environmental situation."

"Fortunately," he continued, "Chinese people are paying much attention to environmental issues at present."

The communication between Gutis and Chinese reporters lasted for around two hours. "I'm impressed with the bravery of Chinese journalists who report the truth to the public," the environmentalist said. "We are planning to create more chances to communicate with them just like what we did today," he noted.

Thieves eye Korean and Japanese girls

By Gan Tian

Tanaka Yoko is a Japanese freshman majoring in Chinese language at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU). One day, when she was studying in the library, she met Liu Yi, who said he was hunting for a language partner in the college and asked for her mobile number. Tanaka agreed happily, and promised to study with him every evening after class.

"At first he appeared to be very warm-hearted and welcoming," she recalled, "he even knew a little Japanese, and I was very glad about that."

"Besides, my teacher always told us we should find a language partner to practice, so I agreed," Tanaka said, "and I even tutored him through several Japanese lessons and he also taught me some good expressions."

However, five days later, they were still studying together in the library and Tanaka went to the washroom for a while. When she returned, Liu Yi was not there. "At first I thought he would be back soon," she said, "but when I opened my schoolbag, I found my purse, my mobile phone and visa card were all gone!"

Tanaka called the police and

found she was not the only victim. Jeon, a Korean third-year student at BLCU, rented an apartment in Dongwangzhuang near the college. She remembers many posters around the campus advertising free Chinese lessons. "I happened to be working on my term paper and need some help, so I chose one and called," she said.

Jeon didn't realize the "helper" was a thief. "She was a girl, and I thought it was safe to take her home," the victim recalled. They went through the term paper happily, and Jeon's tutor came to her apartment several times. "One day she brought some pineapples and grapes," Jeon recalls, "and she asked me to wash the fruit." While the exchange student was in the kitchen, her guest made off with her laptop and purse, never to be spotted again.

"This also used to happen a lot to European and American boys, and some foreign teachers in the university," a dormitory guard said.

Now, the guard says, "Many Korean and Japanese girls are becoming victims." Exchange students are urged to take care of their belongings and double-check any language partner's identity, for example, which school and classes they attend.

Your guide to Beijing wireless hotspots

By Annie Wei

Wireless helps increase café business. Even if you have wireless back home, you may still prefer surfing the web in a cozy café with a nice view and the right atmosphere. Below are popular places with wireless access in different parts of town. Find one near to you and relax!

Starbucks Coffee

When my workaholic British friend Eleanor visited me last weekend while on vacation, she still spent at least 5 hours online for her work. Because the hotel she checked in charged Internet fees, we went to a wireless café nearby.

Starbucks Coffee, with its obvious sign and well-known logo, is always easy to find. At first I thought all Starbucks locations in Beijing provided wireless connections because the one in PCCW Building, near Sanlitun, did. But it turns out that lots of Starbucks locations in town do not.

Many customers in Starbucks don't seem as regular as those who go to corner cafés. Frequent visitors also noted rumors of "lost" laptops.

107 PCCW Building, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6593 2279

Sculpting in Time Café

This café has five locations in town already. The one in Wudaokou, with its convenient location near the universities, is the most popular. It gathers local and foreign students of different ages, white-collar workers, particularly those in the IT industry, as well as many language partners.

No 1 Building 12 Huaqingjiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Haidian (West of WuDiaoKou train station)
Tel: 8286 7026

Workers' Stadium and Sanlitun bar area

This is a great location to work and live for young and single people: plenty of restaurants, nightclubs, cafés and shopping places. The market is therefore competitive; to lure more customers, wireless is necessary.

The Bookworm

This place might be the best-known literary café among expats. Everyday it gathers lots of people working there with their laptops, like a school library without rules to be quiet. Instead, it's fun, with many events and speakers. A good place to relax and feel social even you have no one to hang out with.

Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chao Yang

Tel: 6586 9507

Bar Blue

Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Sanlitun bar area, Chaoyang

Tel: 6417 4124

Top Club & Lounge

4th Floor of Tongli Studios (South Entrance), Sanlitun Bei Lu, Sanlitun bar area, Chaoyang

Tel: 6413 1019

Cafe de Niro

1st floor Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Sanlitun bar area, Chaoyang

Tel: 6416 9400

Le Petit Gourmand

South Bldg., 10 Sanlitun Lu (North Bar Street, in alley just west of Skyline Bar), Chaoyang

Tel: 6416 7154

Gustumonta

24 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang.
Tel: 6417 8890

Jianguomen Wai Dajie

Steak & Eggs

You may feel embarrassed to use your laptop Saturday and Sunday morning because so many people crowd in here for brunch.

5, 6 Xiushui Nan Jie, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6592 8088

Grandma's Kitchen

Level B, Jianwei SOHO, Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 5869-3055

Sequoia Café

It's a small but nice and cozy place; many western journalists working nearby gather here.

44 Guanghua Lu (next to the John Bull Pub), Chaoyang

Tel: 65015503

Stone Boat Bar

It's in the southwest corner of Ritan Park and is very popular in



Free wireless is a great way for cafés and bars to attract customers.
CFP Photo

the summer time. I thought it was too cold for winter. But a friend who has visited there recently told me the opposite. It's very warm now with the new heaters.

Southwest corner of Ritan Park, No. 6 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang
Tel: 65019986

Nanluoguxiang

My friend Eleanor expected to go to a wireless café with real Chinese surroundings. "I do not want to be in the expat area," she said.

Do you think the older Bei-

jingers living in hutongs will carry a laptop, drink coffee and surfing online? The truth about wireless cafés is that they are occupied by people who don't have to work in their office from 9 to 5. But luckily, we finally found that more and more places in Nanluoguxiang are starting to offer free wireless. This hutong alley has a much quieter atmosphere and views of old Beijing. Nanluoguxiang is in Xicheng District, with entrance in Ping'an Dajie.

Solve the IP cards complexity

By Gan Tian

It all started innocently enough; an Indonesian student had rented Mr Ji's apartment. The telephone, operated by China Netcom, cost only 200 yuan a month on average. However, when Ji went to pay the last telephone bill, it was 1,000 yuan! After investigating, Ji and the company found out that the Indonesian student had used an IP card to make international calls, but didn't know how to charge.

Pressing more than twenty numbers to key in the IP card's series ID and password is annoying, so many expat students bind their IP card to a landline, which helps them call



IP cards can easily be found in all convenience stores
CFP Photo

international numbers directly. The problem is, it isn't quite that simple.

China Netcom

China Netcom provides 17908 and 17909 IP cards. Whether binding it to the landline or not, 17908 cards will charge a landline

fee as long as you get to the automated message. However, the users can use 17909 direct call service, by calling 17909 + country code + number, which will charge the landline fee only when the phone call goes through.

China Telecom

China Telecom has 17968 and 17901 IP cards. Callers can bind the 17968 with the help of the automated voice menu. After binding, the caller can only call 17968 + country code + number, which charges a landline fee only if the call gets through. But if you do not bind this card to the landline, it will charge you as long as you finish pressing the IP card's

series number and password, no matter whether or not the call is connected.

The 17901 IP card is used as a mobile number. It is rechargeable and costs no landline fee.

China Tietong

The 17995 and 197200 IP cards are China Tietong's best sellers. The 17995 card works the same as China Telecom's 17968 card, but remember, the number you dial after binding is 17996 + country code + number, not 17995. The 197200 card charges no landline or Xiaolingtong fee whether binding or not, but if you are not bound to a landline, your mobile phone will be charged whether or not the call gets through.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

What is the dress code in China?

Never wear an evening dress unless you are very aware of the event you are going to. Looking professional mainly depends on what kind of job you have. For example, if you are working in the CBD, in a well-established law or consulting firm, suits are usually required. If you are in media or other creative industries, you can wear whatever you like. Never wear black or white to a wedding; conversely, never wear red to a funeral.

Where can one get business-cards made and how much do they cost?

You can easily find a small printing or photocopy store on every street corner. Tell them what you want and they can design it for you. Normally speaking, a box of 100 business cards costs 25 yuan or more, depending on what kind of paper you prefer.

Are there any reliable places that I can adopt animals?

There are quite a few organizations that can help you to adopt animals, such as:

The China Small Animal Protection Association (No. 30 Building 1 Jinyuan, People's University in Haidian District, 62511676)

Grandma Ding's Cat Home (66173634)

The Beijing Human and Animal Environmental Education Center (www.animalschina.org)

These organizations have different requirements for adoption. For example, the China Small Animal Protection Association requires you to register your dog and send pictures to show that you are treating the dog well. Becoming a member of the association requires an annual fee of 90 yuan. Also, the Association asks for a 200 yuan as deposit, which will be returned once they are sure that you are taking good care of the dog.

Hey, I am visiting my parents' Chinese friends around Spring Festival and I wonder what kinds of gifts I should bring them.

Things unique to your home abroad are good gifts. Generally, Chinese women welcome western cosmetic products such as skin creams or perfumes, which are over-priced in China. For men, cigars or western liquor are popular, too.

(By Wei Ying)

Village artists onto Milan stage

In March, Chinese contemporary artists from Songzhuang will show their works in Milan, Italy. Now you can see their collection of oil paintings, sculptures and mixed media before they head to Milan and make your own judgments as to their place in contemporary Chinese art.



Li Hongmei Today and Li Hongmei Yesterday by Da Long

By Jackie Zhang

Smoking men and women, a lonely person swimming in a river with no banks, and paintings made with a variety of materials: these works will represent Chinese contemporary art in Milan at the 12th MiArt Fair. The preview exhibition is being held now at Artist Village Gallery in Songzhuang.

MiArt is the International Modern and Contemporary Art Fair of Milan, the only exhibition and art fair in Italy. It is divided into four sections: Modern, Contemporary, Preview and Art & Co.

This is the second time that the Artist Village Gallery has been invited to participate in MiArt. This time, over 30 artistic works by ten artists from Songzhuang, in the eastern suburbs of Beijing, will show in the exhibition. Sally Liu, manager of the gallery, said that three to four artists might go to MiArt. Liu views the fair as a good chance for Chinese artists to see the cutting edge of international art and, in return, let the world know more about Songzhuang.

Last year, during the China-Italy Year, the Artist Village Gallery, together with several other Chinese galleries, was invited to MiArt for the first time.

"MiArt noticed us so late that we didn't have enough time for preparation last year," Liu said, "and because we didn't know very much about the exhibition, we only took some oil paintings."

Liu confirmed that, as far as she knew, the Artist Village Gallery was the only Chinese gallery being invited to MiArt this year.

"We have prepared a greater diversity of works this time," Liu explained, "like mixed media and sculptures, in addition to oil paintings."

Liu said the works will be packaged and airlifted to Italy early next month.

Songzhuang

In the late 1990s, many artists started gathering in Songzhuang. Most of them moved there from the Yuanmingyuan artist village, one of the earliest artist villages, following its dismantling. They rented houses from villagers and rebuilt them as their studios.

Songzhuang gradually came to be regarded as a base for contemporary Chinese art. Recently, however, the quickly-developed 798 District has overshadowed Songzhuang.

The Artist Village Gallery

The Artist Village Gallery was established four years ago. Located at Songzhuang, a community that now boasts about 500 artists, the gallery has gathered artistic works from many different promising artists.

The owner of the gallery is a couple: Yan Yu, an artist, and his wife Sally Liu. Last year, Liu quit her job at a magazine and became a professional gallery manager.

The Artist Village Gallery is well known among foreigners. Liu said the gallery had been focusing on the international market, noting that foreign people have more of a sense of contemporary art than Chinese people.

"The art market in China is not as mature as in foreign countries," she said, noting that while there are a variety of large-scale professional exhibitions for new works like MiArt every year, China has just started organizing these kinds of events. She cited last year's Art Beijing exhibition as a step towards maturity.

"More efforts are still needed to develop Chinese art market," she said, adding hopefully that, "in the recent years, more and more Chinese people have become interested in art."



The Edge of City by Song Haizeng



Undress by Ma Ye



Everything in China Is in the Process of Right Mistake by Da Long Photos provided by Artist Village Gallery

Of the ten artists whose works will be exhibited at MiArt, Beijing selected three to talk about their work. During their year-long artistic creation, they have skillfully produced works on chosen subjects that have in turn become their own artistic symbols.

Liu Yaoxian – Silence and uncertainty

Liu Yaoxian is from Inner Mongolia in Songzhuang in 2001. He is a quiet and thoughtful.

Liu has spent most of his time related to water. His series of "Scenery" was exhibited at MiArt last year, together with several new pieces from this series will also be shown at MiArt this year.

The quiet water surface makes him uncertain. "I almost drowned when I was a child," he said, "and fortune was a kind of fate."

"Therefore, there is a kind of frightened emotion controlling water or swim," he explained.

Liu learned to swim several times and went to swim in the nearby river with friends. But when he's in the river, he's afraid and uncertain.

Liu painted his works to try to express the feelings of uncertainty that he has.

"You can see in my painting that the sky is covered with water," he said, "and the riverbank." He refers to painting a small figure swimming in the water. "The water in these works is grey, which may be depressing," Liu explained.

Actually, all of Liu Yaoxian's paintings of his mental and psychological 'Scenery' works are of this theme. The people's inner fear and loneliness are the main themes.

The artist continued, "I usually paint with only one person or no people."

step age



Faded Lotus by Piao Guangxie

Swimming by Liu Yaoxian

**Preview of works
to be shown
at MiArt**

Where: Artist Village Gal-
lery, No 1 North of Ren-
zhuang Village, Songzhuang,
Tongzhou

When: Call for appoint-
ment, until February 25
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343



Unknown Liquid by Liu Yujun

Da Long – Who am I?

Da Long's works in this year's MiArt are mostly double-sided paintings on clear resin film. For example, one work shows the front of a fashionably dressed woman with curled hair on one side, and the back of the woman, now with 1970s hair style and clothes, on the other.

"I think perhaps it is because I'm aging, I think about my childhood a lot nowadays," Da Long said, who was born in the 1960s. "My memory of childhood is full of pictures of the Cultural Revolution," he continued. "I'm recalling the past in these works."

Da Long is interested in historical affairs and tends use his work to address how people should judge history.

"I'm always thinking about my identity and the nation's," he said.

The artist sees a conflict between western and traditional Chinese styles, not only in people's dress and life styles, but also in art. He notes that some people tend to draw oil paintings while some people like traditional Chinese paintings.

"Some people try to combine the two ways of

painting," he admitted, "but most of them can't find a perfect balance."

Da Long paints with both western and traditional Chinese methods. He doesn't try to combine the two together, but prefers making his works look half-western and half-Chinese.

"I'm not discussing which one is right or better," he insisted, "I'm just describing the phenomenon to people and asking them to decide for themselves."

He created the series of double-sided resin-film paintings for the same reason – to make people think about the past and judge history for themselves.

Yan Yu – Smoking means a lot

Yan Yu, a co-owner of the Artist Village Gallery, is an artist who has drawn smokers for many years.

Smokers have become the symbol of Yan's works.

"Almost every artist has a symbol, and smokers represent Yan Yu," Sally Liu said. "When people see paintings of smokers, they will probably know these are Yan's works," she continued.

Yan smokes himself and finds smoking an interesting social phenomenon. He has drawn different paintings of smokers: of men, women and even a dog.

"These people have different facial expressions," Yan said, referring to his subjects. "Their thin, raised eyebrows and narrowed eyes express a kind of disposal towards their surroundings and show their attitude towards their own life or others."

Yan pointed out that smoking has significance beyond just the common sense wisdom that it is bad for your health.

"For men, especially in China, smoking is more like a way for social communication," Yan said, continuing that, "strangers may get familiar to others when they smoke one or two cigarettes together."

While smoking helps men get acquainted, things are different for women.

"I have seen many women smoking," he said, "but I feel that, unlike with men, smoking makes women extraordinary, because most women do not."

For Yan, smoking is a habit. "I cannot think and draw if I don't smoke," he admitted. "Anyway, I'm trying to express my opinion and thoughts on smokers," he concluded.



Smoker by Yan Yu



Smoker by Yan Yu

By Richard Dawkins
352 pp, Houghton Mifflin.
205 yuan (Beijing Bookworm)

Oxford evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins has been making bold public statements for over three decades.

In 1976, his book, *The Selfish Gene*, aroused controversy by claiming human beings were merely "gene survival machines" – unwitting pawns in a game of natural selection being played by strands of genetic code.

Since then, Dawkins has continued to write about evolutionary biology – and advance the case of Darwinian natural selection – in

sharp, lucid prose. Recently, though, Dawkins has found, or perhaps placed himself at the center of a clash between science and religion, one that has reverberated since well before the US anti-evolution laws of the early 20th century and crescendoed with the recent rise of the American religious right.

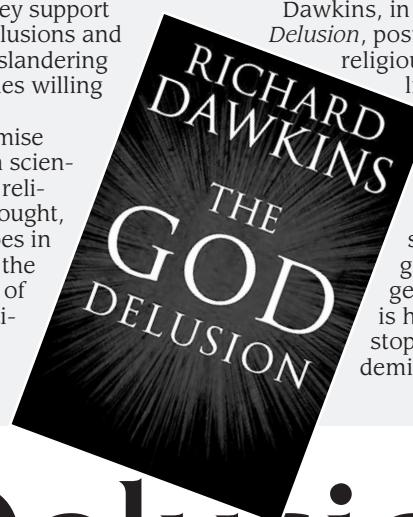
In *The God Delusion*, Dawkins, an unabashed atheist, takes on what he described to Salon.com as the "exceedingly retarded, primitive version of religion, which unfortunately is at present undergoing an epidemic in the United States."

Dawkins can be, and

is rightfully accused of ignoring the more sophisticated arguments in favor of God's existence promulgated by modern theologians, of accepting weak contentions when they support his conclusions and even of slandering colleagues willing to seek compromise between scientific and religious thought, as he does in bashing the winners of the multi-million dollar Temple-

Ton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities.

But he most definitely does not lack passion. Dawkins, in *The God Delusion*, postulates that religious ideas are like pieces of viral genetic code, propagating themselves selfishly from generation to generation. He is hell-bent on stopping the pandemic.



The God Delusion

**"The God Delusion?"
Ouch. Is the rest of the book
as blunt as the title?**

In *The God Delusion*, Dawkins takes off the gloves, plus the scarf and the earmuffs. Faith isn't merely wrong, he argues; religion is dangerous lunacy. If there were no religion, *The God Delusion* maintains, there would have been no 9/11, no "Troubles" in Northern Ireland, no

Israeli-Palestinian conflict, no partition of India and Pakistan, "no shiny-suited bouffant-haired televangelists fleecing gullible people of their money." That belief in God is a delusion is not a private matter, Dawkins writes; the religious are well-organized and influence the world's governments, and essentially all of their influence is harmful. Dawkins proposes that atheists

and agnostics stop politely respecting faith and organize to discredit religion, with the goal of halting its involvement in education and public policy.

– Gregg Easterbrook,
Beliefnet.com

**How does Dawkins
attempt to "disprove" the
supernatural? Is he suc-
cessful?**

Dawkins claims that rejecting natural means to explain life and instead invoking a designer God leaves us with a hypothesis that's even more improbable than the naturalistic one. In short, only complicated objects can design simpler ones; information cannot flow in the other direction, with simple objects designing complicated ones. But that means any designer God would have to be more complex – and thus even more improbable – than the universe he was supposed to explain. This argument, Dawkins concludes, "comes close to proving that God does not exist": the God Hypothesis has a vanishingly small probability of being right.

– H Allen Orr, *New York
Review of Books*

**What is this "God Hypothesis," and how does Dawkins
explain the emergence of life without it?**

On one side is what he calls "the God Hypothesis," namely that "there exists a superhuman, supernatural intelligence who deliberately designed and created the universe and everything in it, including us." On the other side is Dawkins's alternative view: "any creative intelligence, of sufficient complexity to design anything, comes into existence only as the end product of an extended process of gradual evolution. Creative intelligences, being evolved, necessarily arrive late in the universe, and therefore cannot be responsible for designing it." In Dawkins's view, the ultimate explanation of everything, including evolution, may be found in the laws of physics, which explain the laws of chemistry, which explain the existence and the functioning of the self-replicating molecules that underlie the biological process of genetic mutation and natural selection.

– Thomas Nagel, *The New
Republic*

**Are Dawkins' jabs
reserved mainly for the God
of traditional monotheism,
or does he target a broader
pantheon of spiritualities for
refutation?**

Some will accuse Dawkins of being not just impolite, but also intolerant. He is indeed a kind of crusading atheist, and makes no bones about his opposition not just to religious extremism but also to all species of religious faith – a phenomenon he regards as fundamentally irrational and deeply dangerous. Religious moderates, he points out, have an unfortunate tendency to lend their perceived legitimacy to more extreme faith-based positions. They do this in large part by encouraging the common belief that accepting religious claims in the utter absence of evidence, and treating them as immune to rational criticism, is perfectly reasonable behavior.

– Troy Jollimore, *The San
Francisco Chronicle*

**So, does Dawkins offer
a strong philosophical chal-
lenge to natural religion?**

The beauty of Darwinian evolution, as Dawkins never tires of observing, is that it shows how the simple can give rise to the complex. But not all scientific explanation follows this model. It is far from clear which explanatory model makes sense for the deepest question, the one that, Dawkins complains, his theologian friends keep harping on: why does the universe exist at all? Darwinian processes can take you from simple to complex, but they can't take you from Nothing to Something. If there is an ultimate explanation for our contingent and perishable world, it would seemingly have to appeal to something that is both necessary and imperishable, which one might label "God." Of course, it can't be known for sure that there is such an explanation. Perhaps, as [Bertrand] Russell thought, "the universe is just there, and that's all."

– Ray Bartkus, *The New
York Times*

(By Ari Savitzky)

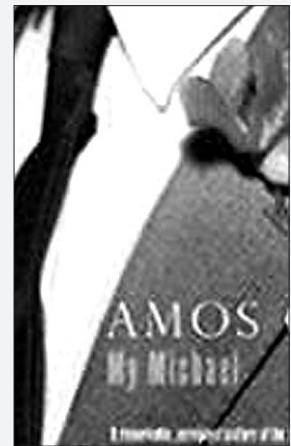
Local shelf

**My Life with the
Chimpanzees**

By Jane Goodall
160 pp, Aladdin, 55 yuan
So enthusiastically does Goodall relate the first 28 years of her life in the jungles of Tanzania that her odyssey appears to have just begun.

The story of her life with the chimpanzees of Gombe has long been available to adults; in this book she brings that world to young readers and may very well inspire them to follow in her footsteps.

My Michael



By Amos Oz
264 pp, Harvest Books, 105
yuan

One of Amos Oz's earliest and most famous novels, *My Michael* created a sensation upon its initial publication in 1968 and established Oz as a writer of international acclaim. Set in 1950s Jerusalem, *My Michael* tells the story of a remote and intense woman named Hannah Gonen and her marriage to a decent, but unremarkable man named Michael. As the years pass and Hannah's tempestuous fantasy life encroaches upon reality, she feels increasingly estranged from him and the marriage gradually disintegrates.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm
Where: Building 4, Nan
Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

The Sky Is Falling

By Raeann Dumont
316 pp, W W Norton &
Company, 66 yuan

Professional therapist Dumont writes for those millions of people whose lives are being "blighted by irrational fears."

Whether a person suffers from some unnamed terror, an incapacitating anxiety or a behavior they can't stop, Dumont believes that all are victims of "magic thinking," in which a conclusion has been formed without a rational thought process. She details this type of thinking and how it can come to dominate people's lives.

Available:
**Foreign Languages
Bookstore**
Where: 235 Wangfujing
Dajie
Tel: 6512 6903
(By Han Manman)



By Chu Meng

Continuing from last week, we are introducing another three restaurants on Lucky Street, an upscale business center combining restaurants, bars, cafés, teahouses, exclusive clubs and brand name shops. This area, which features European-style architecture, is

located in Beijing's fashionable Yansha Central Business District, across from the 21st Century Hotel on Liang Ma Qiao Street, next to new diplomatic complexes and Women's Street (Nuren Jie). On the street, you can find food from Italy and south Germany to India, Japan and China.



Sushi plate in Qing Hai

Photo provided by Qing Hai

Try Qing Hai first for your fish frenzy

By Chu Meng

Don't let Qing Hai's unassuming entrance distract you from its owner's attention to the detail inside this Japanese Barbecue. The stylish space, high ceiling and sleek, with a long glass-and-metal entryway and a rock garden path leading to the bathrooms reflects an unconven-

tional dining attitude.

After entering, all eyes inevitably come to rest on the many upturned baskets of hot coals, and the nose will catch scent of the marinated morsels of seafood slowly cooking inside them.

Some in the city might consider this restaurant sushi sacrifice – Qing Hai's list of innovative

rolls is long and elaborate enough to drive raw fish traditionalists *seppuku*. Yet nearly every item on the menu is among the best of its kind in the city, and the rolls are what make this place truly special. With the single exception of the Beijing Roll, a roast duck and "special sauce" gimmick, you simply cannot go wrong. The

119 Roll, with bright red tuna inside and out, topped with a divine spicy-sweet sauce, absolutely should not be missed.

But the specialty of the house is its wide selection of BBQ fish. Tuna is 28 yuan per serving, snapper is 30 yuan, and other choices start from about 15 yuan. The barbecue fish invites one to

savor the delicate flavor of the sea as only the Japanese can. The sashimi will have to until wait until next time.

Qing Hai

Where: No 29 Lucky Street, Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 5867 0218
Open: 12am-10pm
Cost: 100 yuan per person

Elisa's magic kitchen

By Gan Tian

Elisa's Italian Restaurant serves traditional Italian food in an informal and casual environment. While Elisa's will deliver to your home, the magic inside the restaurant is what makes this place stand out.

"All our food is made at scene," Paolo Wang, the owner of the restaurant, said. Walking in, you will notice a clean, smart kitchen open to the customers in the back of the room. After you order, you can watch your food being made, which is definitely an enjoyable experience.

The gnocchi with spinach and walnuts in gorgonzola and cream sauce (*Gnocchi Al Gorgonzola Noci E Spinaci*) sounds complicated, but it's well worth any confusion. This pasta dish costs 42 yuan, but certainly will satisfy your appetite.

Elisa's Spinaci is like pizza with mozzarella, tomato sauce, spinach, black olives and Parmesan cheese. The ingredients combined create a strange flavor: a little bit salty, a bit sweet and sour. Perhaps it's just something about the restaurant that, when they put it all together, it just comes out

delicious. Maybe someone back there in the kitchen is using magic, standing over bowls of spinach cheese saying, "Alacka alacka zoom! Bippidi boppidi boo!"

To find out for yourself, head to Elisa's, put in an order and start watching the wood-fired pizza oven. It's where the magic happens.

Elisa's Italian Restaurant

Where: C6, No 29 Zaoying Road, (300m east from Lufthansa Center) Chaoyang
Tel: 5867 0291, 5867 0292
Open: 11:30am-11pm
Cost: 100 yuan per person



Spaghetti with seafood

Photo provided by Elisa's



The iskender is enough for two or three people.

Photo provided by Ottoman Turkish

Ottoman Turkish: loosen your belt

By Chu Meng

The name of the game at Ottoman Turkish Cuisine is family-sized meat dishes that will leave your stomach round as a full moon by the time you're on your way out the door.

I went twice to this restaurant. The first time, I was part of a large party; the second time was just for lunch. Both times the quick, perfect service, tasty food and authentic atmosphere made for pleasant dining.

The restaurant fires up excellent Turkish fare with roots in Turkish-Mediterranean. It successfully combines the bold, robust flavors of Turkey with a Mediterranean palette of summery vegetables to present a host of relaxed, unpretentious not to mention delicious food.

The iskender (80 yuan), a plate of diced pork and beef with tomato sauce on a bed of Turkish bread, is more than enough for two or three people, while the

lahacun (55 yuan), which looks like a kind of pizza to the unassuming eye, is simply delicious. There are also many salad options featuring extremely good Turkish cheeses, and a plethora of other meat dishes.

Favorites on the menu include Shish Kebabs, Grilled Prawns in Lemon Garlic Sauce, Minced Beef Wrapped on a Flat Skewer and Rolled Fillet of Beef Stuffed with Button Mushroom and Spinach. You will be savoring every last

mouthful of these sensuous Turkish delights.

The Turkish dancer adds some real feel to the restaurant and some patrons join in the dancing. While overall a bit pricey, the restaurant is well worth the trip and stuffed belly.

Ottoman Turkish

Where: No 32 Lucky Street, Zaoyinglu Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 5867 0210
Open 10am-11pm
Cost: 50 yuan per person

Restaurants

Hot pot discount



Dine at Xiao Ni Ren hot pot restaurant (Xuanwumen Wai Dajie, Xuanwu) and enjoy 20 percent off hot pot and half price beer. For reservations, call 8165 3114.

Barbeque voucher



Spend over 100 yuan at Tian Chi Quan barbecue restaurant (Qinghua Dong Lu, Haidian) and get a 30 yuan voucher. For reservations, call 8237 6526.

Brazilian roast



Seniors over 60 years old and children below 120cm get the special 24 yuan per person price at Samba Brazilian restaurant (Guangmingqiao, Chaoyang). For reservations, call 6779 9930.

Others

KTV discount



Come for karaoke at 180 club (18 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian) and enjoy 20 percent off discount with a student card. For details, call 8261 3366.

Buffet dinner



Dine at Cui Ya restaurant (8 Dongshuan Bei Lu, Landmark Plaza, Chaoyang) and enjoy the special price of 138 yuan per person for the seafood buffet dinner. For reservations, call 6590 6688 ext. 5255.

Dumpling voucher



Spend over 100 yuan at Lao Bian dumpling restaurant (1 Shangdi Dong Lu, Haidian) and get a 20 yuan voucher. For reservations, call 5885 8992.

Cake discount



Buy cheesecake at Wei Duo Mei bakery (58 Xizhimen Bei Dajie, Xicheng) and enjoy 20 percent off until February 10. For details, call 8229 1930.

Photography discount



Have your baby's portrait taken at Mama Baobao Studio (Huatai Yayuncun, Chaoyang) and enjoy a 15 percent discount. For details, call 8483 2802.

Ultimate romance with rose tenderness

Celebrate this Valentine's Day at our rooftop A+A Restaurant & Club. An unforgettable night is designed for you and your sweetheart to indulge in ultimate romance at a supernal leisure spot in a luxury five-star hotel.

A+A Restaurant

Unbeatable Set Dinner served with mellow wine. Create special Heart-to-Heart cookie with your sweetie. To win a big bundle of roses for your lady. Lucky draws are available.

Time: 18:00 – 22:30, 14 February 2007

Price: RMB688 net per couple, inclusive of Set Dinner for two with a bottle of wine and free flow of soft drinks.

A+A Club

Enjoy the romance of Valentine's night with our beverage package, inspired by dedicated love songs performed by our live band.

Time: 18:00 – 24:00, 14 February 2007

Price: RMB288 net per couple, inclusive of a bottle of sparkling wine and two glasses of cocktail.

For reservations, please dial 67731234 Ext. 3826

Regal Palace Chinese Restaurant, specializing in classic Cantonese cuisine, presents exquisitely-created Chinese Set Dinner this Valentine's Day. Treat your sweetheart to a memorable night complemented with toothsome Cantonese delicacies.

Regal Palace Chinese Restaurant

Time: 17:00 – 22:00, 14 February 2007

Price: RMB368+10% per couple, inclusive of Set Dinner for two, two glasses of red wine and an rose for the lady.

For reservations, please dial 87789888 Ext. 262



27, Hua Wei Li, Chao Yang District, Beijing 100021, P.R. China
Tel: 86-10 6773 1234 Fax: 86-10 6773 3456 Website: www.dhsbj.com E-mail: sales@mail.dhsbj.com



Royal Palace Chinese Restaurant
Chinese Cuisine House

Shopping

Furniture discount



Enjoy 10 percent off exclusive furniture at Mei Ke fitment stores around Beijing. For details, call 800 818 6337.

Only-brand discount



All Only-brand products at Grand Pacific shopping mall (133 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) are 50 percent off. For details, call 6612 6888.

Cosmetics discount



Products at Ben Ben Zhu cosmetic store (Beishida Dongmen, Xicheng) are 40 percent off until February 16. For details, call 13717897457.

SOGO sale



Some products at SOGO (8 Xuanwumen Wai Dajie, Xuanwu) will be 40 percent off. For details, call 6310 3388.

(By Terrence Lu)

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By He Jianwei

Despite the proverb, books are often judged by their covers, as are most other consumer items. The designers take human senses – sight, smell, touch and sound – into account when designing packages. Packaging is a way to connect the contents of the box with consumer needs.

When shopping in a supermarket, most people like to open shampoo bottles for a sniff before deciding whether or not to buy them.

But the tried and true traditional concepts of packaging, including the pattern, material, function and techniques, will not meet the needs of the market in this new century.

The customers' intuitive reaction toward a product is usually the first stage in buying – a process of moving from attraction, to interest, imagination, desire, comparison, dependence, action and satisfaction. How to make appealing packages is crucial for designers.

Masayuki Kurosawa, the head of BUTSUGAKU Research Institute, once said the 21st Century is the century of transfer from the age of vision to the age of touch, and that in this century, design will focus on the other human senses.

Smell

Japanese company NIS-SEKI has developed a kind of packaging film to release the scents of apple, strawberry, lemon and other fruits. The film is used in packing candies, fresh vegetables and seafood.

Many children's books also use a kind of fragrant printing ink. The scent it gives the books, including lavender, rose and strawberry, can attract children's attention.

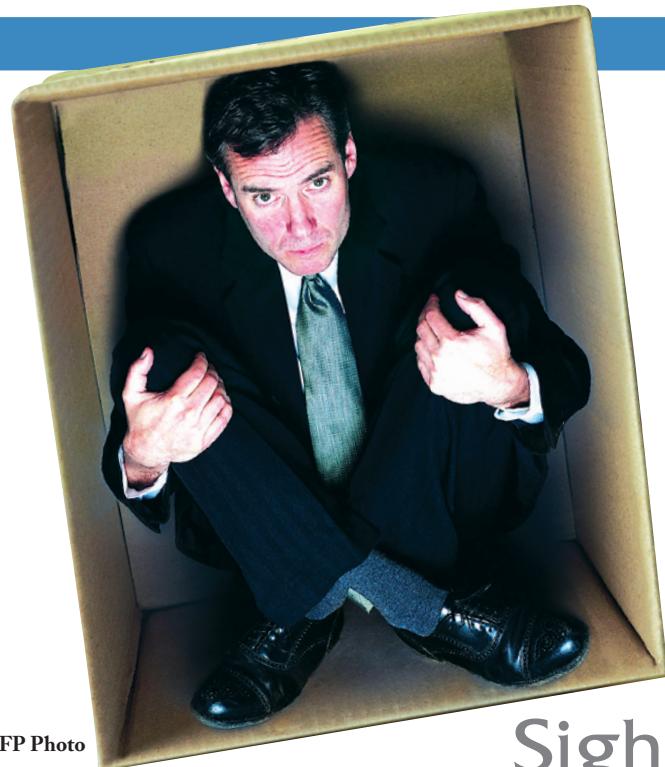
For instance, a strawberry-scented book can maintain the aroma for one to two years if the book is stored in a cool, dry place and not read excessively.

Scratch-and-sniff printing techniques have been in use for a long time. Proctor and Gamble used this technique in designing the packing of its tooth whitening strips.

Eastman Chemical Company has also introduced Chocolatine, a clear, blow-molded jar scented with chocolate, vanilla and orange fragrances, to deliver encapsulated fragrances for the cosmetics and personal-care markets.

Chocolatine incorporates a variety of market innovations, enabling brand owners to create sensory appeal through scented packaging and, therefore, to encourage a true impulse purchasing decision.

Packages to tantalize your every sense



CFP Photo

Sight

A strong visual appeal is one key point in selling merchandise.

The packaging of wine is a good example. The vintage year and bottle design are two factors customers take into consideration.

On the internet, two aspects of wine bottle design attract a lot of interest. The first is the design of the bottle cork. The designer makes full use of the end of the bottle cork to craft a figure. The body of the figure

stands on the cork, and figures in this series are molded into people with bikinis or swim trunks.

The other aspect is the design of the bottle body. Some are packaged into animal shapes, such as a dog and deer, while others are shaped like people, such as a cook, a guitar player or a fisherman.

In the world of wines, the first thing to grab your attention will be the shape and color of the bottle.



Do these designs make you want to buy the bottles?

Touch



Touch the box to feel what's inside.

Kurosawa noted that "touch" is increasingly considered in design decisions. The sense of touch usually depends on the material and texture used in packaging.

Designers work hard to choose material for products and to improve printing techniques, and they have combined touch with the shape of their products.

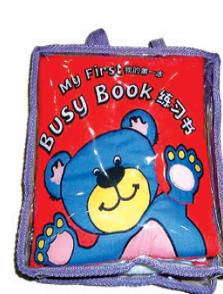
In a series of fruit-flavored beverage packages, Kenya Hara, a Japanese designer, crafted the packages according to the texture of the fruits. His most impressive design is the packaging of kiwi fruit drink.

Using an electronic spinning technique, he adds brown floss onto green paper to give customers the feeling they're holding a real kiwi fruit when

they pick up the drink. The feel of the package suggests to the customer what nectar is inside.

"Frosting" techniques are extensively used when designing the packaging for wine and cosmetics. A frosted surface makes the package feel soft and smooth like caressing skin, but with the visual effect of appearing stiff as metal.

Softplay's cloth book makes entertaining sounds.



Sound

Packaging that makes noise is common in children's toys. When a child moves the box, it will make some kind of noise to grab his or her attention. Because children are sensitive to sound, which motivates their intellectual development, parents are usually willing to buy such products.

Softplay's cloth books are very familiar to children. One of the more famous ones looks like a building block with a button at the bottom. When you touch the book, the back side makes different sounds like rustling leaves or jungle noises.

Although sound isn't often used in tangible packaging, it's frequently used in advertisements. One example would be a chewing gum commercial using the song "Jasmine Flower" in their ad.

This connects the song with their product, so whenever shoppers hum the tune, it will remind them of the gum.



By Gan Tian

When I was wondering whether this topic was premature, but my friend Jeffery Thomas told me he'd already finished with Spring Festival Shopping. "By the Chinese calendar, 2007 is the Year of the Pig, but that's no reason to be slow and lazy!" Thomas said.



Gearing up for Spring Festival

1 Chinese Couplet (Duilian)

Chinese Couplets are always written in such a way that you just know they are good wishes, but still are never sure about the exact meaning. Sometimes, even I have trouble reading them – I can't imagine how it is for foreigners. Slap a difficult pair in your doorway to let your neighbors know you're a Chinese expert.

Available: F1, Tianyu Wholesale Market, Tuanjiehu, Chaoyang
Price: 25-40 yuan

2 Fortune Character (Fu)

Different from Chinese couplets, this is pasted in the center of the door. You'll need to paste it upside down, because saying *fu dao le* (*fu* is upside down) sounds the same as "luck is coming." However, if you paste it up the right way, no one will condemn you – idiots are tolerated during pig years!

Available: 2561, Guanyuan Wholesale Market, Section A, No 4, Chenggongzhuang Dajie
Price: 8-20 yuan

3 Lantern (Denglong)

Ancient Chinese people were environmentalists, none of the lanterns ever wasted electricity! Now is when someone mentions there was no electricity back then ... anyway, lanterns bring fortune and luck because they are red when lit. Just be careful not to start any fires – that wouldn't be lucky.

Available: 2567, Guanyuan Wholesale Market, Section A, No 4, Chenggongzhuang Dajie
Price: 20-50 yuan

4 Window Flower (Chuanghua)

Window flowers are not real flowers – they don't even look like flowers! They're everything: children, garden, characters and animals. Chuanghua is a kind of paper-cutting for windows. It's more interesting than looking at the apartment building right next to you, right?

Available: F1, Tianyu Wholesale Market, Tuanjiehu, Chaoyang
Price: 20-50 yuan

5 Chinese knot (Zhongguo Jie)

A knit knot, or *jie*, is a symbol showing Tuan Yuan. This type of national handicraft has a history of more than 1,000 years. What's special about it is, each knot is purely hand-made and woven out of one silk thread! Amazing, isn't it?

Available: Entrance of Tianyu Wholesale Market, Tuanjiehu, Chaoyang
Price: 10-100 yuan

6 Red Envelope (Hongbao)

You think sending money on holidays is in poor taste? You're way off! Everyone sends money during Spring Festival ... of course, only to children. People don't want it to be so obvious that you're giving money, so they made *hongbao* to fold it in. When I was a kid, every time I got a *hongbao*, I thought it might contain 500 yuan. Of course it was rarely more than 10 yuan ...

Available: F/5, Xidan Book Store, No 17, Xi Chang'an Street, Xidan, Xicheng
Price: 2-10 yuan

7 Guan Yu's picture (Guanyu Xiang)

Guan Yu, sworn brother of Liu Bei and Zhang Fei, is one of the heroes of the Chinese classic *The Romance of Three Kingdoms*. The author often refers to him as "the God of Battle," and with good reason! If you stick him on your door, he'll frighten away any bad fortune that's after you this year.

Available: 2567, Guanyuan Wholesale Market, Section A, No 4, Chenggongzhuang Dajie
Price: 5-10 yuan

8 Fish (Yu)

A big fish decoration in the bedroom brings good luck. The fish pattern means "something extra," *you yu*. The full phrase is "*Nianian you yu*," which means "Each year having something extra." Hey, it's what everyone wishes for! The picture is always of some big, fat kid holding a fish. Why doesn't he cook it and eat it?

Available: F/5, Xidan Book Store, No 17, Xi Chang'an Street, Xidan, Xicheng
Price: 15-20 yuan

By Gan Tian

Nightmares are scary.
You wake up with a heavy weight pressing down on you. Awake but not awake. You try to scream but no sound comes out. You try to move, but your body doesn't listen. You see things around your bed, and when you look down, you see yourself!

Dreams can be sweet or terrible. We can be chased and eaten by monsters, fall off an endless cliff or even end up killed by someone we've never even seen.

The worst are those dreams where we find ourselves paralyzed, struggling to move or speak but unable to.

To find out more, I asked Zhang Yuan, a friend at Tianjin Medical University, about this condition, commonly called Old Hag Syndrome, because of the superstitious fear that a

witch sits on the sleeper's chest, riding them to death like they were a broom.

"Ridden by a witch? Are you crazy?" Zhang asks.

She says the feeling of being paralyzed by a nightmare might actually be part of a disorder known as sleep paralysis.

Throwing off the 'old hag'

Who: Feng Ren, 20, a junior student in Beijing Forestry University

When: 4pm, one day in the summer

Where: Dormitory

It was just before finals, and we were all stressed out from preparing. I was no exception, and I got upset and stressed one afternoon.

I laid down to take a nap and asked my roommate to wake me up before he left. It didn't take long before I was out like a light.

I felt like I slept forever, and I kept thinking of the exam in my sleep. I was wondering why my roommate never woke me up.

Eventually, I woke up on my own and saw he was still gone. I was furious and decided to bolt for the classroom; however, when I reached for my doorknob, my hand passed through it! I turned around and saw my body was still on my bed.

Terrified, I rushed to my side and started shouting.

My eyes popped open with a start and I found I was still in my bed. I was drenched in sweat. I hope nothing so scary ever happens again.

Why:

Zhang says there are several reasons for Feng's experience.

First off, afternoons, especially summer and autumn ones, are the time nightmares are most likely to occur. The air is stuffy and contains more carbon dioxide.

Secondly, Feng said he was facing extreme pressure. An already chaotic mental state was definitely a contributing factor, Zhang says.

Zhang answers a few questions about this disorder to help.

Q: What's sleep paralysis? Is it the same as a nightmare?

A: It's a period where the body is unable to perform voluntary motions either when sleep first begins (predormital), or right before waking in the morning (postdormital).

Sleep paralysis may also be referred to as isolated sleep paralysis, familial sleep paralysis, hypnagogic or hypnopompic paralysis and predormital or

postdormital paralysis.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: Three symptoms are common to most episodes: inability to move the trunk or limbs, brief episodes of partial or complete skeletal muscle paralysis, or hypnagogic hallucinations or a dream-like state.

Q: Is it harmful?

A: The condition is most often associated with narcolepsy, a neurological condition which causes

uncontrollable naps.

Many people experience sleep paralysis without any signs of narcolepsy. Sometimes it runs in families. There's no known explanation why some experience it.

It's not harmful, though most people report being terrified because they don't know what's happening. Within minutes, they gradually, or abruptly, are able to move again.

An episode is often terminated by a sound or touch. In cases accompanied by hal-

lucinations, many people feel someone is in the room with them, and some feel like someone or something is sitting on their chest – as if death was reaching out to claim them.

Q: How can I stop it?

A: If you're having the problem once a week, you need medication. Less frequent cases can be controlled by reducing stress, exercising regularly, but not too close to bedtime, and keeping a regular sleep schedule.

CFP Photo





By Jane Ram

Color takes on a whole new meaning when you stroll through Shenzhen's annual Spring Festival street market.

From a distance it looks like streams of red, orange, gold and yellow flowing together and forming a dazzling river of flowers and fruit.

"Shenzhen" and "holiday" might seem incompatible words, but the economic miracle city abutting the Hong Kong SAR is full of surprises.

At this time of year Shenzhen shifts gears: the full throttle pursuit of money eases off for a short spell while everyone prepares to celebrate Spring Festival.



Shenzhen in holiday mood



Staying for festival

Years ago, I discovered the city sets up many small and large flower and plant markets just before Lunar New Year. Locals told me where the largest market was, and I enjoyed it so much it's become a yearly destination.

Everyone knows this is a city of immigrants.

As Spring Festival approaches, most Shenzhen residents think only of going back home for a family reunion, but that leaves several million people who can't make the trip for one reason or another: maybe their parents prefer to come south for milder weather, or perhaps they can't get time off for a trip.

Whatever the reason, on February 15, Shenzhen will return to "festive mode."

Immigration is almost empty, traffic is light and the whole place looks different as everyone puts on bright holiday colors instead of the usual dark business suits of the rest of the year. Babes in arms, grandparents in wheelchairs, courting couples and schoolchildren out with their friends: this is an enjoyable excursion for everyone.

Flowers

The flowers inspire warm smiles and friendly chat among complete strangers. Can this really be Shenzhen, the world's most successful economic lab, famous for its ruthlessness?

At Ai Guo Lu, an entire section between two roundabouts has been turned into a pedestrian's paradise. Stalls line the street on both sides, and the verges and open spaces on both sides have been pressed into service to store potted plants and cut flowers.

Business is quiet the first day, which closes in the early hours of February 18. In the meantime, most people here browse and chatter rather than buy.

Some are clearly trying to decide whether they have the patience to wait until the prices start tumbling in the last hour or two of sales. Others are taking their time over selecting the perfect purchase.

Citrus fruits are the dominant color and smell in the annual feast for the eyes. They range from



Vendors selling on the street



A popular spot for souvenir snaps



Lotuses are the most welcomed.

Photos by Jane Ram

knee-high potted kumquats to giant pomelos that might require a small crane to position.

Dahlias and roses the size of cabbages come in every shade from the palest pink and lavender to deep crimson. Red Anthuriums are massed together alongside exotic bromeliads in yellow, orange and blood red.

Cut branches, and sometimes whole trees of flowering peach, plum and pear are lined up to anchor in big vases – the growers have fussed for months to get these to bloom on the right day. They go so far as to strip off every leaf to encourage the shoots to put out extra buds to cover the bare twigs.

Every few years, a new craze emerges. Not so long ago, the first "nipple fruit" caused a sensation, but now they are commonplace.

Occasionally they have been left on their gangly stems, but at the market, the fruits have mostly

been pegged together with slivers of bamboo to form long-lasting golden pyramids of varied heights. Many of my Hong Kong gardening friends enjoy the fair as an opportunity to seek out unusual plants.

Peonies are taken for granted in Northern China, but they can't survive the hot and humid southern summers. Nevertheless, as a short-lived seasonal treat, few blooms are as beautiful as these.

In their own way, camellias are equally beautiful, with their exquisite single or multiple flowers like something created by a skilled pastry chef.

Vendors come from near and far, many bringing unusual orchids with them. Sadly, most are taken from the wild, stripping large areas of Yunnan and other provinces of their unique flora.

Food

After feasting your eyes at the Fair, it's time to treat your palate.

One of the many pleasures of a visit to Shenzhen is the wide variety of authentic regional cuisine.

Immigrants from every part of China all want to eat home-style cooking, which is why the Special Economic Zone has so many excellent regional restaurants in every price range.

For Hong Kongers, this is a good chance to enjoy food not found in the SAR. Restaurants seem to be fully staffed yet fairly quiet at this season, so you rarely need to queue for a table.

At Muslim restaurants, small pieces of mutton are skewered on wooden toothpicks and marinated with fragrant cumin and other spices before being grilled over glowing charcoal.

The Hunan restaurants fill huge clay pots with individual pots of soup and braised meats to cook for long hours.

Maybe this year's choice will be a long-time favorite, a Sichuan restaurant where there are no compromises in quantities of chili and Sichuan peppercorn. After that, there will still be time for a quick visit to one of the special Spring Festival displays in Deng Hu Park before heading home.



Tips

- Try to reach Ai Guo Lu by mid-morning, before the crowds build up. Hopefully by that time you'll be ready to move on.
- Re-charge your camera batteries the night before and take an extra memory card – this is a wonderfully photogenic day.
- Watch your valuables and money – pickpockets operate here, as they do in every crowded place all over the world.
- You can walk to Ai Guo Lu from the railway station if you have a good sense of direction.

- A taxi will cost you about 20 yuan.

Souvenirs

- Look to buy brightly lacquered cooking chopsticks: these decorative, multi-purpose souvenirs never seem to be available anywhere else at other times of the year.
- New year symbols sell out fast, be they paper cuttings or animals.

Two years ago there were beautiful roosters, but last year's dogs didn't have the same appeal.

I wonder how the pigs will look this time around.

Princeton, a town of advanced learning and moral inspiration



The Romanesque gate leads to a mysterious world of learning.

Photos by Shida Zhu

By Shida Zhu

When I was at Rutgers University in Brunswick, New Jersey, I stayed at the Quality Inn. The setting was so rural there that I could watch the deep-green-feathered, wild Canadian ducks strutting about the front lawn.

Though it's not far from Princeton, I never visited there until I had to say good-bye to my Rutgers University friends.

We took a public bus and arrived at Princeton in about 30 minutes. The moment I set foot on the soil of the town, I was struck by its quiet, rural atmosphere, the groups of charming and cute-gabled houses, and its centuries-old elm and oak trees.

It is a borough of Mercer, NJ, halfway between New York and Philadelphia. What's today a town was once a plantation established by Captain Henry Greenland in 1681. Some 15 years later, a number of Quaker families came to settle. Business thrived, and the village prospered to become a main lunch stop for stagecoach passengers traveling between New York and Philadelphia.

Morven, at 55 Stockton Street, now the Morven Museum and Garden, was the principal executive mansion of New Jersey. Its oldest parts were built in colonial style by Richard Stockton, grandfather of a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The town is the site of the Princeton Theological seminary, a Presbyterian seminary, the Westminster Choir College, a private college and its affiliated Columbus Boychoir school and a number of research institutes and laboratories set up by industrial establishments on the strength of the existing research and knowledge facilities in town.

Of course, the most outstanding of all its institutions of learning is Princeton University. Seated on 850 hectares in the center of town, it's one of the most beautiful campuses in the US.

Though the campus lacks walls, it has red-brick, Roman-style gates. I was particularly enchanted by the orange lamps hanging from the gates that lead to the campus. They provide a sense of quiet and calm, and make the campus all the more mysterious to a visitor.

Princeton University has been renowned for its preceptorial method, in which large classes are broken into small groups that gain knowledge through conferences and discussions. It doesn't aim to build its professional schools, but upholds pure learning.

The university prides itself on the Palmer Memorial stadium, the New observatory, the Herbert Lowell gymnasium, the Harvey S. Firestone Memorial library, the architectural laboratory and Woodrow Wilson House at 82 Library Place between the Stockton Street and Hodge Road.

Woodrow Wilson was the president of the university in 1902 and went from the university campus to the New Jersey governor's office, and then finally on to the White House, opening a new page of American idealism in international affairs.

The gothic-revival Episcopal Church was bathed in brilliant sunlight. It is one of the world's largest university churches in the world, where commencements are held every year, and its where Princeton residents hold their wedding ceremonies and funerals.

The oldest building of the university is Nassau Hall, built in 1756. When designer Robert Smith, who also designed Independence Hall in Philadelphia,

completed it, it was the largest academic building in the US.

The hall was named after William of Nassau, King William III of England. It was the venue where the Continental Congress met in 1783 to sign the peace treaty with Britain. It then became a dormitory, refectory, classrooms and a chapel, and later turned into an administrative building in the 19th century.

Whenever the Princeton football team overpowered its old rivalries in New Haven or Cambridge, the Nassau Hall bell would ring for a long time to celebrate the victory.

As we walked on one of the main streets of the town, we saw an exhibition on Albert Einstein, the 1921 Nobel laureate of physics and most honored citizen of the town.

After lunch at one of the university staff clubs, we headed for No 112 Mercer Street, where Einstein lived after immigrating from Germany and joining the Institute for Advanced Study in 1933.

It was an ordinary white-frame, two-story house with a large front porch – the Greek revival style typical of Princeton. I stared at the house from across the street and went behind it to its rear garden.

The garden was full of green trees and bushes. Since it hadn't been cared for in a long time, the weeds had grown quite tall and vied with flowers for sunlight. It's so ordinary you could hardly imagine it ever housed the great Einstein.

As I strolled the tree-lined pavement, it was as if I saw Einstein's 12-year-old girl neighbor jumping gleefully into his house to puzzle him with all kinds of questions and offer him her cookies.

Before his death in a town hospital on April 18, 1955, Ein-

stein asked his family not to establish any memorial in honor of him. The house would never be made into a "place for pilgrimage" in his name.

The burial site of his ashes was never made public, and his house was turned into public property. It's now a dormitory for visiting scholars. I peeped inside the first-floor window and saw chaos inside – the typical environment of busy bachelor scientists.

There's no monument to the great scientist, only the feelings his home invokes in the hearts of passersby. As a German physicist said, none will surpass him in terms of respect for cultural values, humility and a distaste for brown nosing.

However, at Princeton there's an inscription on the marble over a fireplace: Raffiniert ist der Herr Gott, aber boshaft ist Er nicht ("God is subtle, but he is not malicious"). This may be the only thing to remind people of Einstein's great presence in the town today.

Of all the places the visit, No 112 Mercer Street may be the most worthwhile, as it's the most intellectually engaging.

If you have enough time, you can go further to No 500 Mercer Street, the famous Princeton Battlefields where the American revolutionaries won their first victory over the British during the Revolutionary War.

Where to stay:

Cloister Inn, 65 Prospect Avenue 01-609-258 1380

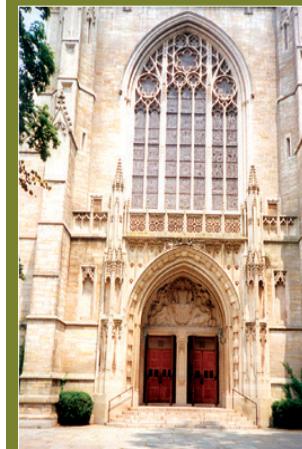
Residence Inn, 3563 Route 001-609-799 0550

Residence Inn by Marriott, 4225 Us Highway N, 001-609-683 0001

West Windsor, 3450 Brunswick Pike, 001-609-919 9000



There are many sculptures on campus.



The Episcopal Church at Princeton



The quiet corner offers the possibility of calm meditation on life.



The Indian totem-like sculpture on campus

By Han Manman

Li Ning Co. Ltd., one of the leading sporting goods makers in China, has been expanding its presence across the globe through partnerships with athletic heroes and groups including American NBA players and the Swedish Olympic Committee. *Beijing Today's* three featured interns are each university seniors who started an internship at Li Ning last June.

"These three interns arrived with a solid academic foundation from their university studies; they are strong learners and flexible workers. They have initiative and clear goals for their future development. They are all involved in brand-related work, which can be demanding."

Our writing examination includes logical analysis, mathematical analysis and a personality test. In the personality test, we don't have a desired answer; all the questions are open. But in the following face-to-face interview, we focus on communication abilities, problem-solving abilities and initiative. The company also requires an athletic spirit. After two interviews, each successful applicant enters Li Ning's trainee program.

There are a few areas these interns could strive to develop in the future: first, expanding their creative thinking. Sometimes, you don't need to wait for others to tell you what to do; you need to have your own ideas, make plans and try to realize them. Second, interns should build up their power to influence others. Whenever you have a good idea, explain it and tactfully try to persuade others to accept your idea. Third, the intern shouldn't rush to complete a task or a plan at the expense of quality. Think about what the work requires first, and then work step by step.

I have some suggestions for university students considering an internship at Li Ning:

First, think about your advantages and weaknesses before applying for an internship. We always ask students, 'Compared with other applicants for this position, what are your advantages?' Many students cannot give a satisfactory answer.

Second, choose an internship based on your interests. Many students choose to work in an industry they are not personally interested in due to job market pressures. Then they lack enthusiasm for the work and for their future development in the field.

Third, make your career goals clear. We sometimes feel troubled when an applicant cannot tell us his or her goals. No one will know what you want if you are not clear about it yourself.

Fourth, research the company and the position you want. We often meet students who are unfamiliar with our company or the position for which they applied; that definitely brings down their performance."

- Rick Wu, HR manager at Li Ning, told Beijing Today about the qualities that the company seeks as it competes to become one of the world's leading sports concerns.

Li Ning goes global, finds interns here in Beijing



Song Zikang is an intern with Li Ning's PR team in the brand marketing department. He will obtain a double degree in sports and business administration from Beijing Normal University this July.

It has been my long-held dream to work in a sports company. I loved sports when I was a child, and always thought it would be wonderful if I could support myself working in sports. When Li Ning provided me with this chance, I told myself, "Be positive and never give up!"

Just as I joined the company, a Li Ning-sponsored player, NBA Cleveland Cavaliers' guard Damon Jones, visited to Beijing. My team leader asked me to follow Jones' entire stay in Beijing to familiarize me with Li Ning's PR approach. The first day Jones came to Beijing, I went to the airport and witnessed the historic moment

of Li Ning signing an agreement with its first NBA player. From then on, we had a busy and successful year.

I learned a lot from on-the-job experience that would have been hard to study in school. I followed many projects from the very beginning to the end, from planning to operation and execution. Although Li Ning started out as a domestic company, it is becoming much more international. I was a little shy at first, but the PR work made me communicate and cooperate with others. The company is like a stage: everyone has a chance to show off. Sometimes it's OK to be modest, but sometimes you should

show self-confidence.

Li Ning also has various sports competitions. I am the member of the marketing soccer team. I remember the first competition was against the production team. There were so many talented players on each team, and I was so happy when we won the final medal. After the competition, I realized the power of sports as a core value, how they can make you enthusiastic about facing challenges.

I'm at the first stage of my career. I feel I chose the right industry. Li Ning's interns have the chance to work in each department. With these ample opportunities, I believe I can learn more.



Li Dan is an intern in Li Ning's brand marketing department, and will obtain a degree in international relations from the prestigious Beijing University this July.

Ever since I was a child, I have loved volleyball. Whenever I played in middle school or high school volleyball competitions, I wore Li Ning. So the company had a special place in my heart. If I hadn't seen Li Ning's notice on campus, I wouldn't have chosen a career like brand marketing. I majored in international relations, and lacking extensive sports knowledge, I started from zero.

Just when I thought I had failed to get the Li Ning internship - a month after I sent my resume - I finally received a phone call.

The interview included a writing examination and a face-to-face interview. The written examination covered different areas of economics, with a GDP analysis using a chart, and also some mathematical problems. The test also included some logical reasoning questions in English.

I thought I performed well in the face-to-face interview.

I thought carefully about my past, and tried to clearly analyze and compare my strengths and weaknesses.

When the interviewer asked why I wanted to work for Li Ning, I discussed two very important competitions in my life. The first was an international competition in New York. When I dressed in my red Li Ning suit and stood under the Statue of Liberty with my team, I felt like I represented China. I also told the interviewer about how my team won the gold medal in the China high school volleyball competition for the first time in our school's history. Then, too, we were all wearing in Li Ning uniforms. I was really moved telling the story, and the interviewers also looked moved. Maybe they felt my sincerity and understood that I had grown up with the company.

Experience in a student association is like working in a company. When I was a freshman, I helped post and send flyers, and when I was a sophomore,

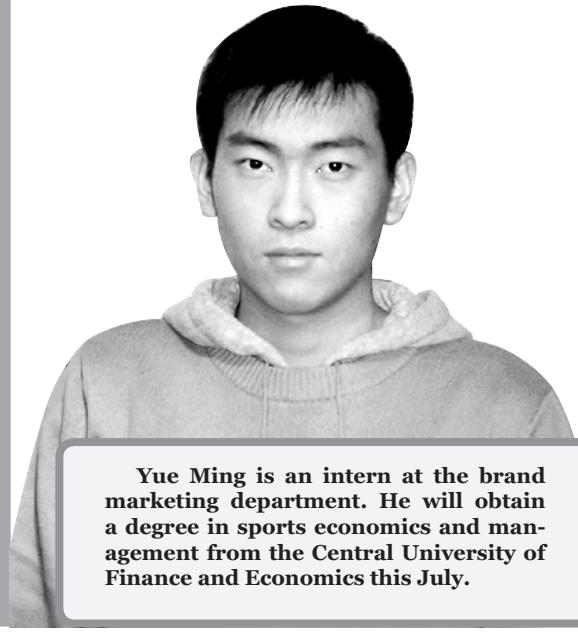
I became the vice chairman of my association and began to organize big events. Later on, my work began to include capital management, membership recruitment and corporate sponsorship proposals. So when I was asked in the interview about past campus experience, I said that everyone starts with small or trivial tasks. If I don't work from the bottom up, how can I assign tasks and organize effectively once I'm a leader? A company works the same way.

But at Li Ning I found that I was quickly involved in serious projects. During my internship, I have been a little anxious at times: initially I doubted that I could excel at Li Ning since I knew next to nothing about the industry compared with other interns. However, my team leader told me many of Li Ning's executives also came to the company without a sports industry background. My team leader said she would train me very strictly, because I needed time to grow. No one can immediately become an experienced talent. This advice gave me a lot of confidence, and now many people say I'm growing up quickly.

Many people think my major, sports economics and management, means that I solely study sports and will only work in the sports industry. In fact, I mostly learn about economics and financial management. But we need to be familiar with sports too. My major suits my work in Li Ning. Many of my classmates applied to enter Li Ning's internship program; I was the only one from my university to win entry.

I have had previous internships in banking, information technology and advertising, but what I really wanted was to work for a sports company. I was so happy when the interviewer asked about my ideas for sports advertisements, an area with which I am very familiar. I discussed many global brands including Nike, Adidas and Li Ning.

I am crazy about sports. My notebook has a 60-gigabyte hard disk, and 40 gigabytes are for sports games and ads. During my analysis



Yue Ming is an intern at the brand marketing department. He will obtain a degree in sports economics and management from the Central University of Finance and Economics this July.

Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

Be Careful, ‘Ladies’

By Chu Meng

Once upon a time, the people of the world all spoke a single language and used the same words. They decided to build a tower reaching into the heavens. To stop the project, the Lord prevented them from communicating by turning their one language into many, so that one person's speech was merely babble to another. Then, they were dispersed all over the earth.

The story of “the Tower of Babel” always gave my soul solace when Chinglish popped out of my mouth. As a girl, I dreamed of having elegant spoken English. Now, as a reporter for an English newspaper, I still wish my English sounds perfect.

I clearly remember how proud I felt when I finished my first restaurant review last May and sent it to a foreign editor in the newsroom.

The review, at one point, said; “Imagine a lovely night on a lovely date, with a little ‘lady’ sitting opposite a very cute guy. In the lovely moonlight, under tender table lights, the little ‘lady’ gets everything right. In her black Gucci evening top, she picks cute sandwiches with her cute fingers. What a lovely ‘dining’ experience.”

The next day, the male editor was staring at me curiously when I came into the office. He asked me, shyly, “What are you doing? The style guide clearly states that ‘ladies’ is a sexist term.”

He went on, “This has not stopped the female members of staff from using it on every possible occasion. It is pretty sad that I, the hairy foreign man, am the only feminist in the building. It is inappropriate for you to say it on any occasion.”

From that day on, I remembered to use the word “lady” carefully.



CFP Photo

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

By Derrick Sobodash

1. “Harmonious society”

Yes, this official translation of *hexie shehui* has been around since 2005, but that doesn't make it any less odd.

This term is extremely vague in English and does little to specify what spheres of society the “harmony” is in or what this “harmony” will be. Unless referencing the government's development plans, your words are better spent describing exactly what kind of development you mean.

2. “Combine together”

A fine example of redundancy, and a mistake many make, is writing these words. Things cannot be “combined apart” – it defeats the very definition of com-

bine. Just write, “combine.”

3. Time word + present continuous

Another way to waste words is to begin a sentence with a time word like “presently,” “currently” or “now,” and then later in the sentence use a present continuous verb. For example, “Currently, the government is conducting a survey.” The nature of this tense already means it is happening in the present.

4. Beginning with a coordinating conjunction

Starting a sentence with a coordinating conjunction, like “and,” “but,” “or” or “so,” is evil. These words are for connecting two related clauses with a comma to form a sentence. Stick to con-

junctive adverbs when starting a clause, and save these words for connecting them, as in “I would have started this with a ‘but,’ but then it would have been a bad example.”

5. Connecting clauses with a conjunctive adverb

Hot on the heels of the above mistake is connecting clauses using a comma plus a conjunctive adverb. Conjunctive adverbs, like “however,” “also,” “moreover” and “therefore,” are not true conjunctions and cannot be used the same way. They must come at the beginning of a clause, and, if joining two clauses, a semicolon should come first. For example, “A conjunction needs a comma; however, a conjunctive adverb needs a semicolon.”

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Please Don't Make Confused Noise When Chanting

By Derrick Sobodash

The first problem here is the “when chanting” part. It's incorrect.

The characters refer simply to reciting scripture, generally for the purpose of finding a deeper understanding of the texts. They do not necessarily refer to chanting sessions or prayer time.

Most likely, the monks or priests are reading out loud for people who have come for scripture study.

“Confused noise” is a little awkward as well. The sign is really asking people to keep quiet and not interrupt the reading or distract others who are there to learn.

A better rendering would be, “Please be quiet during recitations.”

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Dependant / Dependent

“Dependant” is an adjective which means “relying on someone.” If you would like to refer to a person who depends on someone else economically, for food, clothing and money, just change the “e” to an “a,” for “dependant.” Do not add “-er” and make it Chinglish.

2. Distinctive / Distinct

“Distinctive” is an adjective describing a notable characteristic, like a special quality or style. You could, for example, enjoy a person or a place’s distinctive charm. “Distinct” means non-identical or separate, as in, “Water is distinct from fire.” It can also mean clearly defined or unquestionable, as in “a distinct disadvantage.”

3. Intense / Intensive

Something that is “intense” occurs to an extreme degree. For example, one could experience intense cold, intense heat, intense joy or intense sorrow. “Intensive” means to require a high concentration of a specified quality or element. For example, a course in school might be reading-intensive.

4. Liberalism / Libertarianism

“Liberalism” is the quality of being liberal or the principles and practices of a liberal political party; in practice, it often refers to supporting the use of state power to address policy issues, or to hold more tolerant views on social issues. Libertarianism is an ideological belief in the freedom of individual thought and speech; Libertarianism is also referred to as “classical liberalism,” though libertarians disagree with liberals' support of state power.



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FREE ADMISSION | FREE BREAKFAST | FREE GIFT | ENGLISH BROADCAST

Friday, February 2

Exhibition Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition



This exhibition features more than 30 works from young Chinese painters like Yang Chunbaixue. Using a variety of images and approaches, the paintings reflect the artists' perceptions of the age they live in, their lives and their social environments.

Where:
Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, 1-1E Huawei Li (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until February 28
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461; 8779 0458

Chinese Painting Group Exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, opposite the Friendship Store, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until February 16
Admission: Free
Tel: 6515 8123

Movie Le Cri du Cochon



Two people on vacation get caught up in a mysterious war involving the slaughter of pigs.
Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: Fridays at 5pm, until



March 6
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoor Temple of Heaven Tour and Taichi Class

Tour the Temple of Heaven and learn to practice taichi with a professional taichi master

(English narration).
When: Meet at the east gate of Temple of Heaven (main entrance opposite to Hongqiao Pearl Market) at 9:30am and return at 12pm.
Cost: 150 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(Chinese Culture Club)

Saturday, February 3

Exhibition Group Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Artists

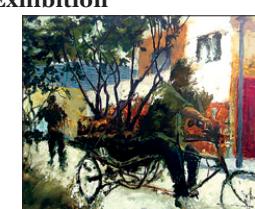


The Yan Club Arts Center continues its January group exhibition, offering a varied display of Chinese contemporary artists, including Liu Baoming, Yu Xiaodong, Ma Yue, Lao Dao, Xiao Se and Tong Zhengang.
Where: Yan Club Art

Center, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until February 28
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3506

Richard Lee Solo Exhibition



Where: Imagine Gallery, Feijiacun, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tues-Sun 10:30am-5:30pm, until March 7

Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

Movie Xiao Wu

Xiao Wu which was directed by Jia Zhangke, focuses on the lives of young people in the director's hometown in Fengyang County, Shanxi Province. Xiao Wu starts out looking like an exercise in grungy social realism but gradually reveals itself to be something much more surprising. Little pick-pocket Wu never got away from the streets like his friends did. He realizes that he is alone when his old buddy doesn't invite him for his wedding. When he falls in love with a hooker he



is forced to think about his future. Can he break with his criminal past?

Where: Box Cafe, Xianganzhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian
When: 7:30pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6279 1280

Sunday, February 4

Exhibition Long March Space Group Exhibition

This exhibition features about 35 artists, including Cai Guoqiang, Luchezar Boyadjiev, Chen Shaofeng, Dmitri Gutov, Guo Fengyi, Dan Mills, Ma Wen and Ulrike Ottinger.



Where: Long March Space, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until March 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 7107

Zhu Jinshi Solo Exhibition

Where: Courtyard Gallery, No 319 Nangao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until March 10
Admission: Free
Tel: 6434 9144

Lesson

Paper-cut in a courtyard

Visit a special courtyard house in the downtown hutong where famous folk artist Liu Ren works on her paper cuts everyday. The beautiful courtyard serves as her studio, as well as her micro-museum: the walls, windows and doors are all decorated with beautiful paper cuts. Come pick up a pair of scissors and try your hand at cutting zodiac animals or Chinese New Year decorations! Bring them back home.

When: 2:30-4:30pm (Meet in the lobby of Marco Polo Hotel, Xuanwumen Nei Dajie, Xicheng)
Cost: 100 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041
(Chinese Culture Club)



Stage in March

Music

Lantern Festival Concert

Who: China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, March 3-4
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Classical Music Concert

Who: Beijing Spring Vocal Chorus
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, March 3

Admission: 80-1,000 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, March 4
Admission: 50-680 yuan

Memorial Concert for the 100th Anniversary of Edvard Grieg's Death

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, March 3

Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, March 9

Admission: 40-480 yuan

Drama

Oliver Twist

Who: Britain-based TNT Theatre

Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, March 15-17

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Oliver Twist

Who: Britain-based TNT Theatre

Where: PLA Song and Dance Theater, No 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, March 22-24

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Eight Abstinences of Love

Who: Directed by Dai Pengfei

Where: People's Art Experimental Theater, 3/F, Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, March 8-25

Admission: 60-280 yuan

Sports

World Snooker 2007 China Open

Who: 32 top snooker players including Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stephen Hendry and Ding Junhui

Where: Beijing University Gym, No 21 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian

When: From March 25 to April 1

Admission: TBA (To be announced)

(By Qiu Jiaoning)